OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/99 Vol. 42, No. 1

Our Resolve—To Pursue Jehovah's Way of Life

1 A highlight of the "God's Way of Life" Conventions was the resolution that was adopted in the concluding talk. It began with the declaration: "We . . . wholeheartedly agree that God's way is the best way of life." Recall some high points of that resolution to which we said, "AYE!"

2 It is our resolve to remain clean before Jehovah, without spot from the world. We will continue to put God's will first in our lives. Using his Word, the Bible, as our guide, we will not deviate to the right or to the left, thus confirming that God's way is far superior to the way of the world.

3 The world in general disregards God's way of life and reaps the consequences. (Jer. 10:23) We must therefore continue to be taught by our Grand Instructor, Jehovah, who says: "This is the way. Walk in it, you people." (Isa. 30:21) Jehovah's way of life, as set forth in the Scriptures, is superior in every respect. In order to pursue that way, it is imperative that we take full advantage of all that Jehovah teaches us.

4 **Jehovah's Superior Teaching Program:** Jehovah teaches us the real purpose of life and how to use our lives to the best advantage. He teaches us how to improve the quality of our lives mentally, morally, and spiritually. He teaches us how to live at peace with our brothers, our family, and our fellowman. He does this through his textbook, the Bible, and through his organization.

5 Our congregation meetings are of great importance in this regard. As we regularly attend and participate in all five meetings, we receive comprehensive training as ministers of the good news and a well-balanced education in Christian living. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Our Grand Instructor further provides theocratic education through assemblies and conventions. Our goal should be *never* to miss a meeting or a session if our health and circumstances permit us to attend.

6 May we diligently continue pursuing God's way of life in the days ahead, all to Jehovah's praise and to our everlasting benefit!—Isa. 48:17.

"Exercise Patience"

1 As we see the end of Satan's old system drawing ever nearer, it is vital that we "exercise patience" while waiting on Jehovah's day of deliverance. Especially at this late hour, wicked enemy forces are determined to divert our attention from the foremost issue of Jehovah's sovereignty and tempt us to be distracted by multitudes of personal interests. In this way, Satan would trick us into giving up or slowing down in the Kingdom-preaching work. (Jas. 5:7, 8; Matt. 24:13, 14) In what ways can we manifest such needed patience?

2 **By Being Forbearing:** When we encounter apathy or opposition in our ministry, forbearance will help us to persevere in preaching. We will not be easily intimidated or offended if people we meet are abrupt or unkind. (1 Pet. 2:23) This inner strength can prevent us from speaking negatively of people in our territory who show indifference or animosity toward our work, realizing that such talk would discourage us and those who work with us in the ministry.

3 **By Patient Persistence:** It can tax our patience when after having a good discussion in field service, we cannot find the interested person at home again. The same is true if those with whom we study are slow to make progress or to take a stand for the truth. However, patient persistence is often rewarded with good results. (Gal. 6:9) A sister made a number of return visits on a young woman before a Bible study actually got under way. On the first five visits, the woman was preoccupied with other matters. On the sixth attempt, the sister got drenched in a thunderstorm, only to find nobody at home. Nevertheless, determined to give the woman one more chance, the sister called again and found the woman ready to study. Thereafter, the student made steady progress and in a short time dedicated her life to Jehovah.

4 We know that Jehovah's day will not be late. So we wait on his outworking of matters, knowing that divine patience will produce good fruitage. (Hab. 2:3; 2 Pet. 3:9-15) We must exercise patience as Jehovah does and not give up in the ministry. "Through faith and patience," look to Jehovah to reward you for your hard work.—Heb. 6:10-12.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Week Starting January 4

Song 36

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If meeting times changed January 1, remind all to use handbills that show the new schedule.

15 min: "Make Good Use of Older Books." Questions and answers. Mention older books that are in stock locally. Point out some of their interesting features, and explain how they might be presented to others. Encourage all to offer these books in field service and when witnessing informally during January. Include a demonstration of a brief, simple presentation.

20 min: Making a Legal Choice for Nonblood Management of Health Care (Acts 15:28, 29). Talk by a qualified elder, based on question-and-answer guide that accompanies the Society's health-care durable power of attorney, or proxy, form and the sheet entitled "Information About the Society's Health-Care Durable Power of Attorney (DPA) Forms," both dated January 1997. Advance Medical Directive/Release card: Following this meeting, baptized Witnesses will be given a new card, and those with unbaptized minor children will receive an Identity Card for each child. These cards are not to be filled out tonight. They should be filled out carefully at home but NOT signed. Signing, witnessing, and dating of all cards will be done after the next Congregation Book Study, under the supervision of the book study conductor. Before signing, ensure that the cards are filled out completely. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the cardholder sign the document. By adapting language from this card to their own circumstances and convictions, unbaptized publishers may write out their own directive to use for themselves and their children. Durable power of attorney, or proxy, form: This has been prepared by the Society and is a more comprehensive health-care document that provides primary legal protection. Many doctors have reacted very favorably to this document because it contains detailed information needed to treat Witness patients effectively. Publishers who have not already filled out this form and who wish to do so can obtain a copy from the congregation secretary. (It is not necessary to fill out a new one each year. ? However, if a publisher has moved to another state, he would need to execute a new form in order for it to be effective in that state.) Additionally, if a durable power of attorney, or proxy, form has been executed, you should write on the front of the Advance Medical Directive/Release card, preferably in your own hand: "I have also executed a health-care power of attorney." Book study conductors should make a checklist to ensure that all assigned to their group have the assistance they need to fill out the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and durable power of attorney, or proxy, form. For the best legal protection, both documents should be filled out.

Song 61 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 11

Song 88

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: "Our Resolve—To Pursue Jehovah's Way of Life." A talk. Include encouragement for all to attend the five weekly meetings of the congregation regularly.

15 min: "Exercise Patience." Discussion between members of a family. They review ways they can demonstrate patience to a greater degree in their ministry. Include appropriate comments from the June 15, 1995, *Watchtower,* page 12.

Song 135 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 18

Song 169

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

15 min: "Overseers Taking the Lead—Congregation Book Study Conductors." Talk by an exemplary book study conductor, who reviews his duties. He shows how such work contributes toward the progress and spiritual well-being of the congregation. Include key comments from *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* pages 43-5, 74-6.

15 min: "Starting Studies in the *Require* Brochure." Question-and-answer consideration.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 25

Song 201

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Adjustment in Hour Requirements for Pioneers." Talk by elder. Commend pioneers in congregation, and encourage more publishers to take up auxiliary and regular pioneer service, having in mind extra activity during March, April, and May. Include information from February 1997 and July 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* inserts.

20 min: Are You Examining the Scriptures Daily? Talk and audience discussion. Each year the Society provides the booklet *Examining the Scriptures.* Do you individually or as a family group make good use of this publication? Explain the beneficial reasons why we should consider the scripture text for each day. Discuss comments from the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1999,* pages 3-4. Invite publishers to relate the special effort they are making to consider the daily text and comments faithfully as individuals and families.

Song 225 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us?*

January 4:	p. 12, par. 1 to p. 17, par. 14
January 11:	p. 17, par. 1 to p. 21, par. 11
January 18:	p. 21, par. 12 to p. 27, par. 22
January 25:	p. 27, par. 23 to p. 31, par. 18

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**147**	**122.8**	**109.1**	**53.8**	**4.3**
Pios.	**75,856**	**81.8**	**56.9**	**24.4**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**24,166**	**59.9**	**45.5**	**15.2**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**850,657**	**9.5**	**8.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**950,826**		Baptized: **2,635**		

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1999 "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] When the Israelites were in the wilderness, Jehovah instructed Moses to make two silver trumpets. If only one trumpet was sounded, the chieftains of the tribes were to gather at the entrance of the tent of meeting. Blasts from both trumpets would signal the whole assembly of Israel to come together. (Num. 10:1-4) Today, are we not thrilled when we hear announcements that, like trumpet blasts, gather us to our annual district conventions? At our conventions we receive Jehovah's instructions and guidance by means of his Word and his appointed representatives. This helps us to continue steadfast in service to God. Do we not rejoice when we see thousands—perhaps tens of thousands—of faithful fellow worshipers gathered together in love and peace? We surely do!—Ps. 122:1, 7, 8.

Program Times

Friday and Saturday

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[2] From May through September 1998, a total of 198 "God's Way of Life" District and International Conventions were held in 69 cities throughout the contiguous United States. Brothers and sisters in four convention cities (Long Beach and San Diego, California; Pontiac, Michigan; and Houston, Texas) hosted thousands of delegates from countries around the earth, who were attending the first international conventions held in the United States since 1978. The variety of languages spoken proved to be no barrier to the communication of warm love at the conventions. The brothers who opened their homes to accommodate foreign delegates experienced further delightful association. Missionaries and international servants returned to the United States to attend the conventions. Their presence proved to be spiritually encouraging to all. As we gather together for our 1999 district convention, we will have fresh opportunities to experience our precious brotherhood and to thank Jehovah for the unity he has given us.

[3] **Making Your Hotel Reservation:** Arrangements have been made to secure adequate hotel rooms near the convention sites. Each year, we are happy to provide you with information on how you can make rooming arrangements for the convention, and we appreciate very much your cooperation and support. The local Rooming Department has prepared a Recommended Lodging List of hotels that are now ready to accept reservations. Please follow the instructions in this insert in the box entitled "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." Because of fire and safety regulations, you should arrange for no more than four persons in each room. If a particular hotel will permit more than four persons to a room, this will be clearly indicated on the Recommended Lodging List.

[4] Hotels available for your convention appear on the first Recommended Lodging List. When these hotels are

filled, a revised list of hotels will be sent to your congregation. We are asking that once you make a reservation, please keep that reservation. Do not switch your reservation to another hotel, even if one that is closer or more desirable appears on a later list. Additional hotels are added because there are brothers and sisters who still need rooms, not to provide more choices for those who already have rooms reserved. Following this direction gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our Christian brothers.—1 Cor. 10:24; 1 Tim. 6:8.

[5] If you have called all the hotels on the list and no rooms are available, please inform your congregation secretary. He will contact the Rooming Department, using the address or telephone number shown at the top of each list. Frequently, hotels on the list will make additional rooms available closer to the time of the convention. When the Rooming Department has arranged this, these hotels will appear on a revised list. Please wait for the new list rather than make a reservation at a hotel not on the list.

[6] **Sending Deposits to Hotels:** The only way to guarantee a room reservation is to make sure that the hotel receives your deposit. For each room reserved, a one-night deposit must be made within ten days of making your reservation. Without a deposit, the hotel has the right to give your room to someone else.

[7] **Handling Hotel Problems:** If you experience a problem with a hotel at any time, the local Rooming Department wants to know about it in order to assist you. For any difficulties experienced *before or after* the convention, you may write or call the Rooming Department, using the address or telephone number shown at the top of the Recommended Lodging List. If a problem arises *during* the convention, you should go to the convention Rooming Department and bring the matter to their attention so that it can be resolved before you check out of the hotel.

[8] **Attending Another Convention:** If you plan to attend a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, the congregation secretary can provide you with the address of the convention headquarters for the convention you will be attending. When you write for rooming or other information, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. If there is more than one convention held in that city, be sure to indicate the dates for the convention you will attend.

[9] **Caring for Those With Special Needs:** Please be alert to the special needs of the elderly, the infirm, those in full-time service, or others in your congregation who may require assistance in attending the convention. Relatives, the elders, and others in the congregation who are aware of the unique circumstances of those with special needs can lovingly help them make the necessary arrangements.—Compare 1 Timothy 5:4.

[10] The Society's Special Needs Room Request form outlines the qualifications for submitting this form. This provision is only for publishers in good standing, including those with well-behaved children, who have been approved by the Congregation Service Committee. These requests should be sent to the Rooming Department as soon as possible, using the convention address shown on the reverse side of the form.

[11] **Expressing Appreciation:** One Witness family wrote to the manager of the hotel where they stayed: "Your hotel was the best hotel our family has ever

stayed at. The rooms were thoroughly cleaned and fully supplied with everything we could possibly have needed. We enjoyed such a pleasant weekend because of the cooperation of everyone at your hotel. We want to thank you for participating with the Watchtower Convention arrangements by providing us rates we could afford." Are you also grateful for the many arrangements made in your behalf? The Society is pleased to provide comfortable, affordable accommodations during the convention period, allowing us all to focus on the spiritual benefits of the convention and the program.

[12] It is encouraging to hear the praise given to Jehovah's name because of the fine conduct of our brothers and sisters at the conventions. A hotel worker said: "Your delegates are the finest people we have here." Another commented: "We love taking reservations from your people. They are all polite and have the right information ready. And they are the easiest group to work with." The manager of a restaurant said: "We enjoy having a group of people in town that we can be proud of." The restaurant gave a 10-percent discount to any delegates wearing a convention lapel badge! And a hotel manager stated: "It has been a pleasure having your people in our hotel." These expressions are a fine testimony from people on the outside. The good reputation we have gained glorifies Jehovah and makes him proud of us.—1 Thess. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:12.

[13] We encourage you to make your arrangements now to attend all three days of the 1999 "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention. We look forward with you to hearing the spiritual "joyful cry and thanksgiving" of those worshiping God as a united throng. (Ps. 42:4) May Jehovah bless all the arrangements being made for our continued spiritual enrichment!

Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation

1. Call hotels during regular business hours (in January, if possible).
2. Inform the hotel that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses attending the Watchtower Convention.
3. Provide the dates you will stay in the hotel.
4. Be sure that you are receiving the room rate(s) shown on the Recommended Lodging List. Do not accept a higher rate.
5. If rooms are not available, call another hotel on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order. Do NOT send cash. If deposit is made by

   Credit card: Instruct the hotel to charge the deposit to your card immediately.

   Check or money order: Write the confirmation number on the front, and mail *within ten days.*

Also Please Observe:

- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Reserve room(s) only for yourself or for people with whom you have made specific arrangements.
- Keep your first reservation.

Starting Studies in the *Require* Brochure

[1] Reports from around the world show that the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* is a powerful tool to teach people the truth. Thousands of Bible studies are being started each week in this brochure. Have you been successful in starting and conducting a Bible study in the *Require* brochure?

[2] While most find it easy to place the brochure, some find it difficult to know what to say to get into the study. What methods have others found to be effective in starting Bible studies using the *Require* brochure? The following suggestions should be helpful.

[3] **Offer to Demonstrate the Study:** When making the initial call or a return visit, rather than simply offering a Bible study to the householder, we can demonstrate how the Bible study course will be conducted. This will tend to remove the mystery and subsequent anxiety that many householders associate with the word "study." Once we learn to demonstrate it, we will find that with a simple introduction, we can get right into the study.

[4] **Preparation Is the Key:** Our enthusiasm for starting Bible studies is directly related to how well we have prepared. Advance preparation will help us overcome any hesitancy we may have in sharing in the Bible study work. By practicing our presentation several times, we will be more conversational, able to express ourselves naturally and in our own words. This not only will help us to relax but will put the householder at ease as well.

[5] When rehearsing, it is helpful to time your presentation so that you can inform the householder how long it will take to demonstrate the study. After introducing himself, one brother says: "I stopped by to show you our free Bible study program. It takes about five minutes to demonstrate. Do you have five minutes?" Lesson 1 of the *Require* brochure can be demonstrated in about five minutes. Of course, only selected scriptures can be read in this amount of time, but by completing the first lesson in a few minutes, the householder is able to experience his first study. Then let him know that when you return to study Lesson 2, you will take only 15 minutes.

[6] ***The following presentation has proved to be effective:***

■ "I would like to demonstrate for you a very simple, yet accelerated, home Bible study course using this brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* Many have found that in as little as 15 minutes a week for 16 weeks, they can find satisfying Scriptural answers to these important Bible questions." Briefly show the table of contents. Turning to Lesson 1, say: "If you can give us about five minutes, we would like to show you how this works. Lesson 1 is entitled 'How You Can Find Out What God Requires.'" Next read the three questions, and explain the numbers in parentheses. Read paragraph 1, and show the householder how to locate the answer. The householder may be asked to read paragraph 2. Then say: "Based on this information, how would you answer this question? [Read the question again, and allow the householder to comment.] You will notice that there are scriptures associated with each paragraph. These direct our attention to the Bible's answer to these questions. For example, let us read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 and see if it supports the answer you gave concerning the author of the Bible." After reading paragraph 3, considering the question, and reading John 17:3, draw the householder's attention to the knowledge he or she has taken in by reviewing Lesson 1. At this point you can turn to Lesson 2 and read the last question, "What are two ways we can learn about God?" Then ask: "When would you have about 15 minutes so that we can do Lesson 2 and find the answer?"

[7] It is important to keep the discussion simple and commend the householder whenever possible. When arranging for another visit, instead of asking if he wishes to continue, simply encourage him to follow the same procedure for the next lesson. Let him know that you look forward to returning. Some publishers have offered to do a lesson over the phone if scheduling became difficult. You may also encourage the student to put the brochure in a safe, convenient location so that it will be handy for your next visit.

[8] **Be Determined:** While the key to success is preparation, we must be determined to follow through. Teaching a lesson in a few minutes can be challenging, so be determined to practice the presentation as many times as necessary in order to be fluent when demonstrating the study. Try to demonstrate a study with everyone you meet at the door, informally, and in telephone witnessing. If you are having difficulty starting a Bible study, do not be discouraged. Success in starting Bible studies requires determination and a sincere desire to impart the truth to others. —Gal. 6:9.

[9] By applying these suggestions, you too may have the privilege of helping someone on the road to life, by starting and conducting a Bible study in the *Require* brochure.—Matt. 7:14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1985 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* regarding the 1999 district convention will be covered in the Service Meeting the week of December 28, 1998.

■ All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 4 will be given the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 1, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "How Real Is God to You?"

■ Congregations should make arrangements to celebrate the Memorial this year on Thursday, April 1, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the Memorial emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial celebration, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between programs to allow time to greet visitors, encourage newly interested ones, and benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic and parking problems, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ The special public talk for the 1999 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 18. The subject of the talk will be "True Friendship With God and Neighbor." An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer, a circuit assembly, or a special assembly day that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 18, 1999.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ New Braille Publications Available:

Does God Really Care About Us? (one volume) —Grade-one Italian
Examining the Scriptures Daily—1999 (four volumes) —Grade-two English
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? (two volumes) —Grade-two English
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? (three volumes) —Grade-one Spanish
Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1999 (one volume) —Grade-two English
What Happens to Us When We Die? (one volume) —Grade-two English; Grade-one and Grade-two French; Grade-two German; Grade-one Italian; Grade-one Spanish

Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

Adjustment in Hour Requirements for Pioneers

1 All of us appreciate having hardworking regular and auxiliary pioneers in the congregation. Even where the territory is limited and thoroughly worked on a regular basis, the pioneers have set a fine example by their zealous Kingdom service. They have encouraged all the publishers to keep busy in searching for those who are "rightly disposed."—Acts 13:48.

2 The Society has observed the mounting difficulties faced by pioneers, especially with regard to finding part-time secular work that will allow them to care adequately for their personal needs so as to remain in the full-time service. The present economic situation in many lands has also made it increasingly difficult for others to enter the pioneer work, even though that is their heartfelt desire. During recent months, these and other factors have been carefully considered.

3 Therefore, in view of the above, the Society has reduced the hour requirement for both regular and auxiliary pioneers. Starting with the 1999 calendar year, the requirement for regular pioneers will be 70 hours each month, or a total of 840 hours for the year. The monthly requirement for auxiliary pioneers will be 50 hours. The hour requirement for special pioneers and missionaries remains unchanged, since provision is made by the Society to help them care for their basic material needs. Thus, they can concentrate more fully on their preaching and disciple-making work.

4 It is hoped that this adjustment in the hour requirements will help more pioneers to hold on to this precious privilege of service. It should also open the way for many more publishers to take up the regular and auxiliary pioneer work. What a blessing this should prove to be for everyone in the congregation!

Make Good Use of Older Books

[1] Man has stored away millions of old books in libraries in every corner of the earth. Yet, of what everlasting benefit have they been to the human race? (Eccl. 12:12) Of much greater worth are publications that focus attention on God's Kingdom and on what it will do for mankind. Most congregations have in stock a variety of such books that were published prior to 1985. During January we will offer these older books to the public.

[2] **They Have Real Value:** While some of us may feel that these books are out-of-date in comparison with our newer publications, we must remember that they contain Scriptural truth. The Kingdom message that they explain is still valuable today and, if heeded, can be lifesaving. (John 17:3) Therefore, we should put forth an extra effort to make good use of these older books.

[3] Underscoring their value is the experience of a woman who inherited a number of older Watch Tower publications from her grandmother. A Witness asked the woman if she had any idea of the publications' real value. The woman replied: "I don't know their value, but how can I find out?" The woman accepted a Bible study, came into the truth, and thereafter treasured her grandmother's library. What a valuable inheritance that collection of older books proved to be!

[4] **Get Them Into Circulation:** In addition to offering the older books from house to house, be sure to offer them when making return visits on people who you know enjoy reading our publications, including those who subscribe to *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* and who are on your magazine route. For those who are studying the Bible with you, selected older books can provide a background knowledge that will broaden their understanding of the truth. Do not forget to obtain any of the older books that are missing from your personal collection. In this way, you will accumulate a valuable theocratic library, which can be used to enrich your periods of personal study.

[5] Rather than keeping our older books in storage, let us make good use of them to stimulate the people we meet to "fear the true God and keep his commandments."—Eccl. 12:13.

Overseers Taking the Lead —Congregation Book Study Conductors

[1] It is an outstanding privilege for a qualified elder or ministerial servant to serve as a Congregation Book Study conductor. Looking after the spiritual needs of those in his group is a serious responsibility. His duties fall into three categories.

[2] **Capable Teaching:** It requires thorough preparation for the Congregation Book Study conductor to impart understanding to the group each week. He seeks to enhance appreciation for the material being studied. Instead of commenting excessively himself during the study, when necessary he will formulate additional pointed questions to draw out the main points of the lesson. His challenge is to make the study interesting and instructive and to involve everyone in the discussion. His objective is to build up spiritually, to highlight the practical value of the study, and to make the material reach both mind and heart. —1 Thess. 2:13.

[3] **Helpful Shepherding:** The Congregation Book Study conductor is "like a hiding place from the wind and a place of concealment from the rainstorm." (Isa. 32:2) He really cares for all in his group and sees to it that spiritual help is provided when one of those in his charge is discouraged.—Ezek. 34:15, 16; 1 Thess. 2: 7, 8.

[4] **Zealous Evangelizing:** The Congregation Book Study conductor is conscientious about making practical arrangements for all in his group to participate fully in the field ministry. He takes the lead in the evangelizing work, knowing that the regularity, zeal, and enthusiasm he shows for the service will be reflected in the rest of the group. (Col. 4:17; 2 Thess. 3:9) In time, he endeavors to work in service with each member of his group. If we want to sharpen our preaching and teaching skills in the ministry, the Congregation Book Study conductor can help us to attain our goal. —1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:5.

[5] We are truly blessed with these gifts in men who stand ready to offer us spiritual assistance and loving support. (1 Thess. 5:14) May we show our appreciation for this wonderful provision from Jehovah by our regular participation in the book study and our faithful support of the evangelizing work.—Heb. 10:25.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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Our Grand Creator Cares About Us!

¹ In his endeavor to reason with disobedient Israel, Jehovah asked: "Have you not come to know or have you not heard? Jehovah, the Creator of the extremities of the earth, is a God to time indefinite." (Isa. 40:28) We know our Grand Creator, and we see his loving care for us. However, millions of people doubt his existence or have a concept of him that does not correspond to what is found in the Bible. How can we help them?

² The new book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* is designed to help such people. It calls on thinking people to reason on the facts. The absorbing material and persuasive arguments in this book should captivate those who read it.

³ **Become Familiar With the *Creator* Book:** Have in mind a basic outline of its contents. Chapters 2 to 5 consider how the universe, life, and man came into existence and what is behind it all. Chapters 6 to 9 explore the Bible and its Author and, in particular, whether the Genesis record of creation is trustworthy. Chapter 10 gives a satisfying answer to one of the most perplexing questions that man asks: "If the Creator cares, why so much suffering?"

⁴ **Try to Reason With Those Who Doubt:** Pages 78-9 in the *Creator* book present a line of reasoning that you can use to help others reach the right conclusion about God. Ask them: "Did the universe have a beginning?" Most will agree that it did. If so, ask: "Was that beginning without any cause or was it caused?" Most recognize that it was caused. This leads to the final question: "Was the beginning of the universe caused by some *thing* eternal or by some *One* eternal?" This approach can lead many to see that there must be a Creator.

⁵ The *Creator* book is just what many people need. Share it with your relatives, workmates, schoolmates, and other acquaintances. Carry it with you in the ministry so that you can place it with those you meet who have doubts about God's existence. The more familiar we get with this book, the stronger our love for our Creator will become, moving us to continue walking in accord with his lofty standards.—Eph. 5:1; Rev. 4:11.

"Put On the New Personality"

¹ Christians appreciate knowing the truth! We have learned how to live in order to avoid the course of those in the world. Being "alienated from the life that belongs to God," they "are in darkness mentally." (Eph. 4:18) We have been taught to make our minds over from worldly thinking by stripping off the old personality and putting on the new.—Eph. 4:22-24.

² The old personality leads to a continuous downward course of moral degradation, resulting in defilement and death. Therefore, we call upon those who will listen to the Kingdom message to put away all wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk. Those desiring God's favor must put away the old personality decisively and completely—in the way they would strip off a dirty garment.—Col. 3:8, 9.

³ **A New Force Actuating the Mind:** Putting on the new personality involves being made new in the force actuating our minds. (Eph. 4:23) How does one make that force, or mental disposition, new so as to be inclined in the right direction? This is done by regularly and diligently studying God's Word and meditating on what it means. Then, a new pattern of thinking develops, and the person sees things from the viewpoint of God and Christ. One's life is transformed as he clothes himself with an array of Christlike qualities, including compassion, kindness, lowliness of mind, mildness, long-suffering, and love.—Col. 3: 10, 12-14.

⁴ By putting on the new personality, we set ourselves apart from the world. Our way of life makes us different. We speak truth and use wholesome speech to build others up. We control our anger, bitterness, screaming, abusiveness, and all badness and replace these with righteous, godly qualities. We go beyond what is usually required of us in being forgiving. All of this is done readily from the heart. —Eph. 4:25-32.

⁵ Never take off the new personality. We cannot serve Jehovah acceptably without it. Allow it to help draw people to the truth, and allow it to glorify Jehovah, the Creator of our wonderful new personality.—Eph. 4:24.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Week Starting February 1

Song 154

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind all to turn in field service reports for January.

17 min: "Offer the *Family Happiness* Book to People of All Ages." Elder discusses the article with two or three capable publishers. Focus on the goal of helping others to realize that the secret of family happiness lies in following Bible counsel. (See *Family Happiness,* pages 9-12.) Demonstrate one of the suggested presentations. Show how to mention the donation arrangement and how to set up a return visit.

18 min: "Put On the New Personality." A talk, analyzing Ephesians 4:20-24. (See March 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 14-18, paragraphs 4-17.) Explain how we strip off the old personality and put on the new.

Song 4 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 8

Song 12

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Our Grand Creator Cares About Us!" Questions and answers. Explain how the *Creator* book can be used to help those who doubt or deny God's existence. Although the book is not for conducting Bible studies, it can serve as an effective tool in motivating people to examine all that the Bible says. (See *Creator* book, pages 189-91.) Invite publishers to share their personal expressions about the publication and to relate any experiences they have had in placing it with others.

Song 173 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 15

Song 40

10 min: Local announcements. Theocratic News.

18 min: How Are We Benefited By Enrollment in the Theocratic Ministry School? Audience discussion conducted by the school overseer. Training in public speaking is not the only purpose of the school. There are other ways in which we directly benefit. (See *School Guidebook,* pages 12-13.) We learn how to communicate better with other people. We are taught to speak with clarity, poise, and self-confidence. We become skilled in answering questions about our beliefs and in explaining our Bible-based decisions. Our knowledge of the Bible increases, helping us to be more effective in witnessing to others. We learn to acknowledge our shortcomings and to accept counsel, which results in our dealing more amicably with others. The overall training that the school provides helps us to remain "adequately qualified" as God's ministers.—2 Cor. 3:5, 6.

17 min: "How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share—In Bible Study." Discussion by a family group. They analyze how they are applying the suggestions about family Bible reading and study found in the May 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15, and the October 15, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17.

Song 57 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 22

Song 170

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Witnessing in Apartment Buildings. (If there are few apartment buildings in your territory, consider the article "Why Keep a Record of Not-at-Homes?" in the May 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*) Discussion with two or three publishers. It is difficult to witness to people living in apartments where conversation is limited to what can be said through an intercom. Consider ways to create interest. In a friendly manner, introduce yourself as a neighbor; use the householder's name if it is shown on the directory; mention a timely subject that you want to discuss, or read an introduction directly from the *Reasoning* book, pages 9-15; and explain that you wish to deliver a tract, magazine, or brochure that answers an important question, and state what it is. Where contact is limited, write letters to the tenants or witness to them on the street as they come and go. Demonstrate a method used locally that has achieved good results with apartment dwellers.

20 min: How to Find Joy in Disciple Making. A talk based on the February 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 19-22.

Song 91 and concluding prayer.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

- Jehovah's Witnesses were officially registered in Bulgaria on October 7, 1998. We share with the 946 publishers there in giving thanks to Jehovah for this development.
- On October 12, 1998, the government of Latvia granted registration to the first 2 of the 21 congregations in that country.
- In spite of opposition, the brothers in France persevere in their Kingdom preaching. In November and December, a campaign to draw the country's attention to the Bible was centered on a special distribution of the brochure *A Book for All People.* About 50 Bethelites have moved from France to Britain to help with printing and shipping operations at the branch, while the remaining 250 members of the France Bethel family and the brothers in the field continue to serve joyfully under normal conditions.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**159**	**122.9**	**101.0**	**53.9**	**4.4**
Pios.	**75,284**	**74.9**	**48.6**	**23.1**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**19,788**	**57.8**	**40.5**	**15.4**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**846,201**	**9.2**	**7.7**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**941,432**		Baptized: **2,842**		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies.
- Starting the week of March 22, 1999, the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study. This issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* contains the complete study schedule. You may photocopy it and insert it in your personal copy of the book for handy reference. Direction on how the introduction of the book will be considered is explained in paragraph 5 of "Studying *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*" on page 1 of the September 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*
- The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review Society's annual S-201 letters dated October 1. See also paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.
- On Saturday, May 15, 1999, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.
- Groups of publishers who have made arrangements to share in working unassigned territory in coming months should plan to offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book in their field service.
- New Publications Available:

A Book for All People —Slovak
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Russian
Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist? —East Armenian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1996 —French
When Someone You Love Dies —East Armenian

- Beginning with the January-March 1999 issue, *Awake!* will be published in Solomon Islands Pidgin as a quarterly edition.
- Beginning with the January 1, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Umbundu as a monthly edition.
- Beginning with the January 8, 1999, issue, *Awake!* will be available in Latvian as a semimonthly edition.
- Beginning with the January 15, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Urdu as a semimonthly edition.
- New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes (Drama, single cassette) —Portuguese

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the brochure *What Happens to Us When We Die?*

February 1: Pages 3-7
February 8: Pages 8-12
February 15: Pages 13-16
February 22: Pages 17-20
March 1: Pages 21-24
March 8: Pages 25-28*
March 15: Pages 28*-32

*To or from beginning of new section.

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived

Study Schedule for 1999

Mar. 22: Introduction
29: Chapters 1-3

Apr. 5: Chapters 4-6
12: Chapters 7-10
19: Chapters 11-13
26: Chapters 14-16

May 3: Chapters 17-19
10: Chapters 20-22
17: Chapters 23-25
24: Chapters 26-28
31: Chapters 29-31

June 7: Chapters 32-34
14: Chapter 35 to subheading "Prayer, and Trust in God"
21: Chapter 35 from subheading "Prayer, and Trust in God" to end of chapter
28: Chapters 36-38

July 5: Chapters 39-42
12: Chapter 43
19: Chapters 44-47
26: Chapters 48-51

Aug. 2: Chapters 52-54
9: Chapters 55-57
16: Chapters 58-60
23: Chapters 61-63
30: Chapters 64-66

Sept. 6: Chapters 67-69
13: Chapters 70-72
20: Chapters 73-75
27: Chapters 76-78

Oct. 4: Chapters 79-81
11: Chapters 82-84
18: Chapters 85-86
25: Chapters 87-88

Nov. 1: Chapters 89-91
8: Chapters 92-94
15: Chapters 95-96
22: Chapters 97-98
29: Chapters 99-100

Dec. 6: Chapters 101-102
13: Chapters 103-105
20: Chapters 106-107
27: Chapters 108-110

Study Schedule for 2000

Jan. 3: Chapter 111 to subheading "The Wise and the Foolish Virgins"
10: Chapter 111 from subheading "The Wise and the Foolish Virgins" to end of chapter
17: Chapters 112-113
24: Chapters 114-115
31: Chapter 116 to subheading "Further Departing Admonition"

Feb. 7: Chapter 116 from subheading "Further Departing Admonition" to end of chapter
14: Chapters 117-118
21: Chapters 119-120
28: Chapters 121-122

Mar. 6: Chapters 123-124
13: Chapters 125-126
20: Chapters 127-128
27: Chapters 129-130

Apr. 3: Chapters 131-132
10: Chapter 133 and review of book

Offer the *Family Happiness* Book to People of All Ages

[1] An 11-year-old boy from California expressed his appreciation for the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.* He wrote: "I am grateful for it, and I encourage other families to read this book because it is great. It is . . . helping my family to find peace and happiness in our home." This youngster's experience should encourage us to offer the *Family Happiness* book to people of all ages. Here are a few suggestions that you may want to try in your ministry during February.

[2] ***When meeting a young person, you might say:***

■ "Many in your age group are thinking about marriage. But where can you find reliable information on the subject? [Allow for response.] Young people often say that they are not sure if they are ready for marriage. Let me share with you what this handbook says about the subject." Turn to page 14 in the *Family Happiness* book, and read paragraph 3. Then point out each subheading in the chapter. Offer the book, and arrange to return.

[3] ***When speaking with a parent, you could say:***

■ "We are sharing with parents some practical guidelines that really work for raising children. These have been compiled in this handbook *The Secret of Family Happiness.*" Turn to page 55. Read paragraph 10, followed by Deuteronomy 6:6, 7, in paragraph 11. Then point out the italicized sentences in paragraphs 12 to 16. Continue by saying: "This book has helped many to achieve greater success as parents. If you would like to read it, I will be pleased to give you this copy."

[4] ***When talking to an elderly person, you might say:***

■ "After I read this brief comment, please tell me what you think." Open the *Family Happiness* book to page 169, and read the first two sentences of paragraph 17. Then ask for a response. Depending on the reply, you might read further excerpts from the book before offering it.

[5] When following up placements of the *Family Happiness* book, have in mind trying to start a Bible study. Lesson 8 in the *Require* brochure or chapter 15 in the *Knowledge* book may be an appropriate place to begin. In the process, let us endeavor to help people of all ages to build a happy Christian family life.

How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share —In Bible Study

[1] The truth adds real meaning and purpose to family life, but success in serving Jehovah does not come automatically. It takes time and effort to build a spiritually strong household. There is a great need for family members to work closely together in this endeavor. This first article in a three-part series will focus on how families can cooperate in developing good study habits.

[2] **By Reading the Bible Every Day:** Proverbs 24:5 states that "a man of knowledge is reinforcing power." The knowledge gained from regularly reading God's Word gives a person the inner strength needed to resist Satan's assaults on his spirituality. (Ps. 1:1, 2) Do you read the Bible together daily as a family? The Theocratic Ministry School Schedule outlines a "Supplemental Bible-Reading Schedule" for each week of the year. Following it requires as little as ten minutes of a family's time each day. Select a convenient time, such as at breakfast, after the evening meal, or before bedtime, to read the Bible and consider the day's text from *Examining the Scriptures.* Make this a part of your family's everyday routine.

[3] **By Studying Together Each Week:** The family Bible study should be the highlight of a family's week. Each member ought to support it by eagerly participating in the study. The family head will want to consider the family's needs when selecting the study material and the day, time, and length of the study. Give the family study priority in the week's schedule. Do not allow matters of lesser importance to interfere.—Phil. 1:10, 11.

[4] A father who often received business calls at his home would disconnect the telephone during the family study. If clients came to the house, they were invited to join in the study or wait until it was concluded. The father was determined that nothing would interfere with the family study. This made a profound impression on his children, and as for his business, it did well.

[5] How pleasing it is when family members cooperate in spiritual activities! Faithfulness in our efforts to have a full share in family Bible study will bring Jehovah's blessing.—Ps. 1:3.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/99 Vol. 42, No. 3

Worldwide Commemoration of Christ's Death

[1] Jehovah has showered us with many gifts. The sum total of his goodness and loving-kindness is eloquently described as "his indescribable free gift." Yes, the "undeserved kindness of God" is so marvelous that to describe it surpasses our ability.—2 Cor. 9:14, 15.

[2] **His Greatest Gift:** Jesus Christ, as mankind's Ransomer, is the greatest gift of all. In expressing his great love for the world of mankind, Jehovah gave his beloved and only-begotten Son. (John 3:16) Such an undeserved blessing from God deserves worldwide commemoration. When and how? On the evening of Thursday, April 1, 1999, Christians around the world will commemorate the Lord's Evening Meal, observing the Memorial of the greatest of all sacrifices.—1 Cor. 11:20, 23-26.

[3] Christ died for us even "while we were yet sinners," and we can show our personal gratitude by observing the Memorial of his death and by inviting others to be present with us on that all-important occasion.—Rom. 5:8.

[4] **The Most Important Event:** The observance of Christ's death highlights primarily that he upheld God's sovereignty flawlessly. It also reminds us that we can enjoy a clean standing before Jehovah by exercising faith in Jesus' sacrifice, thus being assured of salvation. (Acts 4:12) Truly, this is the most important event of the year!

[5] Love for our neighbors is manifested in our inviting them to observe the Lord's Evening Meal with us. The benefits of the ransom remain available to millions who learn of its excelling value. (Phil. 3:8) Those exercising faith in Christ's sacrifice can gain the firm hope of everlasting life.—John 17:3.

[6] The Memorial season provides special opportunities for us to show appreciation for the surpassing undeserved kindness of God. This is an excellent time to share zealously in preaching the good news of God's Kingdom. Great benefits await all who reflect prayerfully on Jehovah's indescribable free gift and arrange to be present at this year's celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal!

Invite Them to Come

Have you given invite to meeting, anyone come? Use invitation

Give me example

[1] An invitation issued centuries ago is now being sounded in 233 lands around the world: "Come, you people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, . . . and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths." (Isa. 2:3) Directing people to Jehovah's organization is one of the best ways we can help them to make spiritual progress that leads to everlasting life.

[2] Some publishers may hesitate to invite people to the Kingdom Hall until after they have demonstrated considerable progress in a home Bible study. However, sometimes people will begin attending congregation meetings even before a Bible study can be started with them. We should not delay in extending a hearty invitation and encouraging people to come to the meetings.

[3] **What to Do:** Make good use of handbills? to inform people about our local meetings. Mention that the meetings are free and that no collections are ever taken. Explain how the meetings are conducted. Point out that they are actual Bible study courses and that study material is provided for all to follow along. Call attention to the variety in backgrounds and walks of life of those attending. Mention that they are people from the area and that children of all ages are welcome to come. We should invite those with whom? we study, offering to assist them in any way to attend.

[4] One of the last things recorded in the Bible is a warm invitation to partake of Jehovah's provisions for life: "And the spirit and the bride keep on saying: 'Come!' . . . And let anyone thirsting come; let anyone that wishes take life's water free." (Rev. 22:17) There is no substitute for inviting others to attend our meetings. Annick

[5] Isaiah 60:8 prophetically portrays the hundreds of thousands of new praisers now coming into the congregations of God's people as doves that "come flying just like a cloud, and like doves to their birdhouse holes." We can all invite? new ones to our meetings and make them feel welcome. In this way, we will be cooperating with Jehovah as he speeds up the ingathering work.—Isa. 60:22.

Taylor

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Week Starting March 1

Song 33

8 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

17 min: "Worldwide Commemoration of Christ's Death." Questions and answers. Include comments on February 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 11-12, paragraphs 10-14. Emphasize how Jehovah's great love prompted him to provide the ransom for us.

20 min: Compelling Reasons to Auxiliary Pioneer in April and May. Talk and audience discussion conducted by the service overseer, urging all to give serious consideration to auxiliary pioneering. Review the adjustments in the hour requirement for regular and auxiliary pioneers, as presented in the January 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 7. This adjustment should enable many more to enjoy the privilege of full-time service. Explain how our appreciation for Christ's sacrifice compels us to exert ourselves in preaching to others. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15) This year the Memorial falls on the first day of April. What a fine stimulus for all Kingdom publishers to devote the entire month to increased service activity! Review selected highlights from the February 1997 and March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* inserts dealing with auxiliary pioneer service. Consider ways to adapt sample schedules that were provided. Review local service arrangements, which offer ample opportunity to participate in the ministry with others. Encourage publishers to obtain auxiliary pioneer applications after the meeting.

Song 44 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 8

Song 52

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: "Invite Them to Come." Questions and answers. Emphasize the need always to direct newly interested ones to congregation meetings. Demonstrate a discussion with an interested person, using the material in the *Knowledge* book, page 159, paragraph 20, and pages 161-3, paragraphs 5-8. Encourage everyone to put forth a special effort to help Bible students and other interested ones to attend the Memorial on April 1. Display a copy of the printed invitation, and explain how it can be used effectively. All should begin distributing Memorial invitations this week.

15 min: "How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share—In Congregation Meetings." Discussion by a family group. As they comment on main points in the article, they discuss how they can prepare for meetings as a family. They discuss ways in which they can help each other to participate and what must be done for the family to get to meetings on time.

Song 62 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 15

Song 56

10 min: Local announcements. Consider "Will You Attend?"

15 min: "Ministerial Servants Render Valuable Service." Talk by a capable ministerial servant. Review main points covered in *Our Ministry* book, pages 57-9. Explain how ministerial servants are used locally to help the congregation.

20 min: Enjoying the *1999 Yearbook.* Discussion between husband and wife. Husband explains that the *Yearbook* was first published in book form in 1927 and that for over 70 years, it has included the worldwide report of Jehovah's Witnesses. They review highlights of the "1998 Grand Totals," on page 31. Then they discuss "A Letter From the Governing Body," on pages 3-5, and comment on how they will follow through on the encouragement given.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 22

Song 162

10 min: Local announcements. Announce the names of those who will be auxiliary pioneering in April. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application. Outline entire schedule of meetings for service planned for April. Encourage all to follow the Memorial Bible reading scheduled for March 27–April 1, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1999* and on the *1999 Calendar.*

15 min: Prepare for the Memorial. A talk. All should make plans to help Bible students and other interested ones attend the Memorial. New ones attending may not understand who may partake of the emblems or the significance of this observance. Review what is stated in the April 1, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 6-8, and show how we can help a newly interested one grasp the meaning and purpose of this celebration. Conclude by reviewing "Memorial Reminders" and outlining local Memorial arrangements.

20 min: *What Happens to Us When We Die?* Elder discusses value and use of brochure with two or three capable publishers. We became better acquainted with this brochure when we studied it at the Congregation Book Study. Are we using it effectively in field service? The panel discusses the following: Why are many people interested in this subject? In contrast with false religious teachings, what hope does this brochure highlight? How can we use the questions on the back cover to stimulate interest? What opportunities exist to offer this brochure? Demonstrate a presentation using the scriptures in paragraph 14 on page 27. Encourage all to be alert to make good use of this brochure.

Song 92 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 29

Song 111

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in their field service reports for March. We will offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* during April. Display current issues of the magazines, suggest articles that may be highlighted, and mention some specific talking points. All should carry along the *Require* brochure and use it to start Bible studies with interested people.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: How Should We React to Counsel? Talk by an elder. All of us are subject to counsel related to our attitude, conduct, associations, or participation in congregation activities. Sometimes we are inclined to resist counsel or to take offense. A willingness to accept and apply counsel can be crucial to our spiritual well-being. Review essential factors that emphasize reasons why we should accept and appreciate counsel.—See the April 1, 1987, *Watchtower,* pages 27-30.

Song 118 and concluding prayer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*
- Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in April and May should turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.
- The Memorial will be held Thursday, April 1, 1999. If your congregation normally has meetings on Thursday, these are to be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If this is not possible and your Service Meeting is affected, the parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.
- Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.
- The Society does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation's monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.
- It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit the Society's facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Wallkill, and Patterson, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The Society will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. Before your visit, please review the October 1, 1998, letter addressed to all congregations in the United States. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY.
- On Wednesday, May 19, 1999, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill will be closed to visitors. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.
- A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12, in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14, and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Thursday, April 1. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower*, page 19.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other place of meeting should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties and the proper procedure.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

Will You Attend?

Attend what? The Friday sessions of the 1999 "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention. Last year in the United States branch territory, the peak attendance on Friday was 233,186 less than the peak attendance on Sunday. This means that over 16 percent of the total number attending on Sunday missed about one third of the convention program. Will you arrange your affairs to be present for all three days of the 1999 convention? We hope so.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**160**	**120.9**	**92.8**	**51.4**	**4.2**
Pios.	**74,781**	**68.8**	**44.3**	**22.1**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**17,865**	**56.5**	**38.9**	**15.2**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**835,182**	**9.0**	**7.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**927,988**		Baptized: **2,330**		

How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share —In Congregation Meetings

[1] Christian families must heed the command to gather together at congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) With good cooperation, all can succeed in preparing for, attending, and participating in the meetings. Family circumstances vary, but there are things that a Christian husband, a believing wife, or a single parent can do to promote family togetherness in spiritual matters, regardless of the number of children in the home and their ages.—Prov. 1:8.

[2] **Take Time to Prepare:** Family members cooperate to see that each one is suitably prepared for congregation meetings. Many consider the article for the weekly *Watchtower* Study together. Some prepare for the Congregation Book Study or read the weekly Bible reading as a family. The objective is to get the main points in mind prior to attending the meetings. In that way, all will benefit more from what is heard and will be equipped to participate as there is opportunity. —1 Tim. 4:15.

[3] **Plan to Participate:** Everyone in the family should have the goal of declaring his hope before others by commenting at meetings. (Heb. 10:23) Does a family member need help or encouragement to do this? What assistance does each one need in preparing assignments for the Theocratic Ministry School? Wives appreciate it when their husbands take an interest and perhaps offer an idea for a fitting illustration or a practical setting. Parents need not feel that they should prepare parts for their young children. Doing so could stifle the children's initiative. But parents can help their young ones and listen as they rehearse aloud.—Eph. 6:4.

[4] **Organize to Attend:** Children can be taught from an early age to be dressed and ready to leave for the meeting at a designated time. Family members should cooperate in caring for household chores so that there are no delays.—See the suggestions in the books *Family Happiness*, page 112, and *Young People Ask*, pages 316-17.

[5] Parents and children alike can reflect on the words of Joshua of old, who said: "As for me and my household, we shall serve Jehovah." Then be resolved to cooperate for a full share in congregation meetings. —Josh. 24:15.

Ministerial Servants Render Valuable Service

[1] "They have demonstrated themselves to be truly dedicated men whose faith has been made manifest in zealous Kingdom service and in helping others to be made firm in the faith." So says *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* on page 57, about ministerial servants. Indeed, the spiritual example set by our ministerial servants is worthy of imitation. Working along with them and with the elders "makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."—Eph. 4:16.

[2] Ministerial servants perform a vital function in the congregation. Think of all their valuable services! They care for accounts, literature, magazines, subscriptions, and territories; they act as attendants, handle sound equipment, and help maintain the Kingdom Hall. They participate in the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Some of them may even give public talks or conduct some of the congregation meetings. Like members of the physical body, ministerial servants perform services that we need.—1 Cor. 12:12-26.

[3] Seeing ministerial servants cooperate harmoniously with the elders as part of one servant body with mutual respect and understanding encourages others to do the same. (Col. 2:19) By faithfully fulfilling their responsibilities week after week and by showing a personal interest in others, they contribute toward a spiritually progressive congregation.

[4] What can we do to show our appreciation for the hardworking ministerial servants? We need to be familiar with their assigned duties and show a readiness to cooperate when our assistance is needed. By word or deed, we can let them know that their work is appreciated. (Prov. 15:23) Those who work hard in our behalf are deserving of sincere recognition.—1 Thess. 5: 12, 13.

[5] God's Word establishes the role and qualifications of ministerial servants. (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12, 13) Their valuable sacred service is indispensable to the function of the congregation. Such men merit our continued encouragement, as they all have "plenty to do in the work of the Lord." —1 Cor. 15:58.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/99 Vol. 42, No. 4

Eagerly Preach the Good News

[1] "I am longing to see you . . . There is eagerness on my part to declare the good news also to you." This is how the apostle Paul expressed himself at the beginning of his letter to the brothers in Rome. Why was Paul *eager* to visit them? He said: "In order that I might acquire some fruitage also among you . . . For I am not ashamed of the good news; it is, in fact, God's power for salvation."—Rom. 1:11-16.

[2] Paul reflected this same *eagerness* in speaking to the older men of Ephesus. He reminded them: "From the first day that I stepped into the district of Asia . . . , I did not hold back . . . from teaching you publicly and from house to house. But I thoroughly bore witness both to Jews and to Greeks." (Acts 20:18-21) In all his assigned territory, Paul was intent on spreading the good news of salvation and gaining Kingdom fruitage. What a fine spirit to imitate!

[3] We might ask ourselves: 'Do I show that same *eagerness* in declaring the good news in my community? Rather than viewing the preaching work as just a duty, am I *eager* to share the good news with as many people as possible? Have I prayerfully considered my personal circumstances? Have I explored all the possibilities that exist in our territory, such as preaching from door to door, on the street, in business districts, by telephone, and informally?'

[4] **Share *Eagerly* During April:** The month of April is a good time to intensify our personal share in the preaching work. The reduced hour requirement should make it possible for more to auxiliary pioneer. Perhaps your circumstances will allow you to serve as an auxiliary pioneer during April and May. Or you may be able to enroll as a regular pioneer, in view of the adjusted hour requirement. If you are a congregation publisher, can you spend more time than usual in the service this month and next, lending support to those who are able to pioneer? That would make Jehovah's heart glad!

[5] Kingdom publishers should, like Paul, continue to manifest an *eagerness* by reaching out in the preaching work. Doing all we can in the ministry will bring us real joy. Paul had this joy in his sacred service. We do well to imitate his excellent example. —Rom. 11:13; 1 Cor. 4:16.

Intensifying the Witness as the End Nears

[1] The harvest season is a joyful time. It is also a time for hard work. There is only a limited time to gather the crops. The workers dare not loiter at their business.

[2] Speaking figuratively, Jesus compared "a conclusion of a system of things" to a harvesttime. (Matt. 13:39) We are living in the conclusion of this system of things, with a limited time left for giving a witness "in all the inhabited earth." (Matt. 24: 14) As the end draws ever nearer, we need to intensify our share in the ministry. Why? Jesus explained: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few."—Matt. 9:37, 38; Rom. 12:11.

[3] **Be at It Urgently:** When Jesus started his grand preaching work, he had only three and a half years to accomplish what he was assigned to do. He preached with a sense of urgency, saying: "I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth."—Luke 4:43.

[4] Jesus instilled in his disciples a similar sense of urgency. (Mark 13:32-37) That is why "every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus." (Acts 5: 42) Less important activities did not take priority in their lives. As few as they were, they succeeded in preaching the good news "in all creation that is under heaven."—Col. 1:23.

[5] There is even greater reason for us to cultivate that same sense of urgency now, as "the end of all things has drawn close." (1 Pet. 4:7) Jehovah has set a day and hour for the end of this system of things. (Matt. 24: 36) The preaching work will be finished in the time that is left. That is why we continue to step up our efforts to reach more and more people with the good news.

[6] By intensifying our share in the witness work as the end draws near, we will have the satisfaction of saying to Jehovah, as did Jesus: 'We have finished the work you have given us to do.' —John 17:4.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Week Starting April 5

Song 55

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Review "May We Offer the *Creator* Book?" Invite all interested ones to attend the special public talk on April 18. The talk is entitled "True Friendship With God and Neighbor."

15 min: "*Eagerly* Preach the Good News." Introduce the article in less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Conclude with encouragement based on the *School Guidebook,* pages 191-2, paragraphs 12-13.

20 min: "How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share—In the Ministry." Discussion by a family group. Consider reasons why the family should view field service as a regular weekly routine in which all participate. Review encouragement given in September 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 17-19, paragraphs 9-12. Invite parents in the audience to relate how they successfully organize weekly service activity for their family.

Song 67 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 12

Song 112

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Intensifying the Witness as the End Nears." Questions and answers. Interview one or two publishers who at one time could never have imagined that they would be sharing in the preaching work but who are now doing so regularly because they have come to appreciate the urgent need to spread the Kingdom message. As time permits, include brief experiences from the *1997 Yearbook,* pages 42-8, showing how publishers have intensified their witnessing efforts by going where the people are.

Song 93 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 19

Song 79

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: "Do You Have a Standing Order?" A talk, preferably by the elder or ministerial servant who handles the magazines. Let the congregation know how many magazines are received each month and the average number that are reported as placed. We should not let magazines go to waste. Offer suggestions showing how older copies can be distributed.—See July 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1.

30 min: "Pioneering—Wise Use of Our Time!" Questions and answers. Assign three different individuals to relate the experiences presented in paragraphs 5-7. Conclude by inviting all who can to consider applying for auxiliary or regular pioneer service. Applications are available from any member of the Congregation Service Committee. Mention that it is not too late to submit an application to auxiliary pioneer in May.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 26

Song 70

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for April. Announce the names of those who will auxiliary pioneer in May, and encourage others to apply. Give some helpful suggestions for presenting the current magazines.—See October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8.

17 min: "What Should I Do?" After a brief review of the article with the audience, look in on a teenager talking to his or her parent about plans for the future after graduation from high school. They review together the July 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Parent gives advice in harmony with encouragement provided in *The Watchtower* of February 1, 1996, page 14, and December 1, 1996, pages 17-19. Now that the pioneer hour requirements are reduced, teenager considers the possibility of pioneering while completing a secular education.

18 min: Interview Auxiliary Pioneers. Service overseer interviews some publishers who are auxiliary pioneering this month as well as others who have done so in the past. Invite them to relate some of the blessings they have enjoyed, what they have accomplished, and why they look forward to auxiliary pioneering again at least one or two months each year.

Song 69 and concluding prayer.

May We Offer the *Creator* Book?

Last year we all rejoiced to receive the book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* It is a book uniquely designed for those who, although well educated in secular matters, may not believe in God. This book fills an ever-increasing need.

For practical reasons the monthly literature offer usually features publications that have wider appeal. Does this mean that we should refrain from offering the *Creator* book? Not at all! This book may be offered at any time throughout the year to individuals who do not believe in God and who may benefit from it. It may also be offered to individuals who believe in God but have no real concept of who he is or what his qualities and purposes are. So you are encouraged to carry a copy in your witnessing bag and be ready to offer it to anyone you think will be interested in reading it.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**171**	**123.2**	**92.8**	**53.0**	**4.5**
Pios.	**78,034**	**64.7**	**41.6**	**21.7**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**28,903**	**49.6**	**33.9**	**13.6**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**838,893**	**8.8**	**7.2**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**946,001**		Baptized: **1,649**		

An all-time peak of 78,034 regular pioneers was reached in January! Additionally, 28,903 enrolled as auxiliary pioneers—the highest number ever reported in the month of January. The reduced hour requirement for regular and auxiliary pioneers, announced in the January 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* has made it possible for many of Jehovah's dedicated people to seize the opportunity to have a greater share in the Kingdom-preaching work.

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Pioneering—Wise Use of Our Time!

[1] 'I'm already overloaded! Would it really be wise for me to take on pioneering at this time?' So thought a sister as she listened to a pioneer-elder present a circuit assembly part entitled "Pressing Ahead With the Pioneer Ministry." A young brother in the same audience thought, 'How does he make room for pioneering? I'm not an elder, but my life is already packed with activity!'

[2] As the elder continued to discuss the blessings of pioneering, he interviewed several pioneers from the circuit who told of the adjustments that they had made in order to pioneer and how Jehovah richly blessed their efforts. One was disabled, one had an unbelieving mate, and one had given up a worldly career but was able to live within his means. Hearing how these pioneers were succeeding with Jehovah's help, the brother and the sister in the audience began to reexamine their own thinking and circumstances. We invite you to do that too, especially since the reduced hour requirements for pioneers are now within the range of many more publishers of the good news.

[3] We know that Jehovah is the Creator and Universal Sovereign and that we owe our lives to him. (Dan. 4:17; Acts 17:28) It is clear to us that Jehovah is using just one organization. We are privileged to serve loyally with it, supporting "the faithful and discreet slave" in giving the Kingdom witness before the end comes. (Matt. 24:45; 25:40; 1 Pet. 2:9) Living far along in "the last days," we realize that the time in which to preach is running out. (2 Tim. 3:1) Meanwhile, we need to support our families materially. (1 Tim. 5:8) A person's income does not seem to stretch as far as it did in the past. Perhaps our health is not what it used to be. And to be honest, we want to have a little time and some resources to spend on ourselves. (Eccl. 3:12, 13) So we may wonder if responding to the invitation to pioneer is really wise.

[4] It is up to each one of us to examine our own circumstances carefully and to decide whether we can pioneer. (Rom. 14:12; Gal. 6:5) It is encouraging to note the increasing numbers who have responded to the call to pioneer. Despite the pressures and problems of these last days, the service report published in the *1999 Yearbook* shows that close to 700,000 of Jehovah's people worldwide are pressing ahead in the pioneer ministry. Whether serving under difficult economic conditions, lacking transportation, experiencing health problems, or encountering other difficulties and hardships, these brothers and sisters are not tiring out in doing what is fine, and this is commendable. (Gal. 6:9) They have accepted Jehovah's offer to put him to the test. (Mal. 3:10) They feel that pioneering is a very wise use of their limited time and resources and that Jehovah has truly blessed them for making the necessary adjustments to enter and remain in the pioneer work.

[5] **Pioneers Are Being Blessed:** A sister in Cameroon who has a very young daughter explains: "Since her birth, my daughter has always accompanied me in the ministry. Even before she learned to walk, I carried her on my back, securely attached with a length of cloth. One morning in the ministry, I stopped at a roadside stand. My child left my side, taking with her several magazines from my bag. She toddled over to the next stand. Although she could not say much, she attracted the attention of a woman and presented a magazine. The woman was simply amazed to see such a young child sharing in this activity. She readily accepted the magazine as well as a home Bible study!"

[6] In response to the call for more auxiliary pioneers, an elder and family head in Zambia who has a full-time secular job decided to auxiliary pioneer despite his tight schedule. He wanted to set an example for the congregation and for his family. On some occasions, he would park his car by the roadside and play *The Secret of Family Happiness* on audiocassette and invite passersby to come over and listen to what was being read aloud. In that way, he was able to place 16 *Family Happiness* books and 13 *Knowledge* books, and he started two Bible studies.

[7] A fine pioneer spirit was also noted in the neighboring country of Zimbabwe. During April 1998, one congregation with 117 publishers reported 70 auxiliary and 9 regular pioneers. Another congregation with 94 publishers had 58 auxiliary pioneers reporting. Still another, with 126 publishers, reported that 58 decided to auxiliary pioneer along with the 4 regular pioneers. Last service year proved to be an outstanding one in Zimbabwe. Even though the brothers there were very busy with family matters, congregation activities, and branch construction, they concentrated on spending their time wisely in the ministry.

[8] Pioneers realize that getting started in the pioneer work and persevering in it are not dependent on their own strength. They are the first to admit that whatever they are able to do is possible because they are "dependent on the strength that God supplies." (1 Pet. 4:11) Their faith enables them to carry on their ministry from day to day. Rather than seeking their own convenience and comforts, successful pioneers realize that to press ahead, "a great deal of struggling" may be required, but they receive many blessings as a result.—1 Thess. 2:2.

[9] **Paul's Example Bears Imitating:** The Bible records the apostle Paul's accomplishments in the ministry and the fine help he gave so many people. Yet, if anyone was overloaded, Paul was. He endured persecution and physical hardships in order to preach the good news and to strengthen the congregations. He also had to put up with a severe health problem. (2 Cor. 11:21-29; 12:7-10) He was determined to spend his time wisely. He acknowledged that he did all his work with Jehovah's help. (Phil. 4:13) None of those whom Paul assisted would have reason to conclude that his time and efforts in Jehovah's service were wasted or could have been better spent. Why, we are still benefiting today from Paul's wise use of his time! How we appreciate his inspired counsel to help us sort out our priorities and stick with the truth in these difficult times!

[10] Now as never before, 'the time left to preach the good news is reduced.' (1 Cor. 7:29; Matt. 24:14) Therefore, it is appropriate to ask ourselves, 'If my life were to end unexpectedly tomorrow, could I tell Jehovah today that I have used my time wisely?' (Jas. 4:14) Why not talk to Jehovah in prayer now, assuring him of your desire to use your time wisely as one of his Witnesses? (Ps. 90:12) Pray for Jehovah's help to simplify your life. Even though you might have ruled it out before, could it be that you now find that pioneering can be fitted into your life?

[11] **Make the Most of Your Circumstances:** Understandably, because of circumstances not all who so desire can schedule 70 hours a month to serve as regular pioneers. However, many publishers do arrange to devote 50 hours a month in the ministry as auxiliary pioneers as often as possible or continuously. If your circumstances are such that you presently cannot auxiliary or regular pioneer, take heart. Continue to pray that your circumstances will change. In the meantime, if adjustments are simply not possible, take comfort in knowing that Jehovah is well pleased with whatever you are able to do whole-souled in his service. (Matt. 13:23) He notes that you are standing firmly on his side and that you are striving hard to be a faithful publisher who never allows a month to go by without seizing opportunities to give a witness. Perhaps you can progress by sharpening your witnessing skills, working to excel as a preacher and teacher of the good news.—1 Tim. 4:16.

[12] With "the great and fear-inspiring day of Jehovah" so near, we need to use the remaining time wisely if we are to finish the work we have been commissioned to do. (Joel 2:31) Satan knows that his time is short, and as never before, he is trying everything in his power to complicate our lives and make it difficult for us to concentrate on the truly important things. (Phil. 1:10; Rev. 12:12) Never underestimate God's interest in you. Jehovah can help you simplify your life and reach your full potential in the ministry. (Ps. 145:16) Happily, many are finding, in reexamining their circumstances, that they can join the ranks of the auxiliary or regular pioneers. Indeed, pioneers find deep satisfaction in using their time wisely. Will you be one of them?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 4 to April 19, 1999. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

T 1. Jehovah did not always dictate word for word what is recorded in the Bible. (2 Tim. 3:16) [*w*97 6/15 p. 5 par. 3]

F 2. Family harmony and the spiritual development of children depend entirely on the parents. (Prov. 22:6) [*fy* p. 85 par. 19]

3. Because sin was "crouching at the entrance," there was no way for Cain to avoid committing serious wrongdoing. (Gen. 4:7) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*94 6/15 p. 14 par. 11.]

4. As a teenager gets older, he should automatically be allowed more latitude in his choice of recreation. [*fy* p. 73 par. 20]

5. The desire to please our Creator provides the best motivation to tell the truth at all times. (Prov. 6:17) [*g*97 2/22 p. 19 par. 4]

6. In order to make 'the sayings of our mouth and the meditation of our heart pleasurable to Jehovah' in prayer, we should strive to be as eloquent as possible. (Ps. 19:14) [*w*97 7/1 p. 29 pars. 4-5]

7. The commands, statutes, and laws of Jehovah mentioned at Genesis 26:5 refer to those of the Law covenant. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 7/1 p. 10 par. 8.]

8. When Jesus said "your faith has made you well," as recorded at Luke 8:48, he meant that the sick woman needed to declare her faith in him as the Messiah before being cured. [*w*97 7/1 p. 4 pars. 2-4]

9. Genesis 11:1 is one of several Bible texts that use the term "earth" to refer to mankind in general, or human society. [*g*97 1/8 p. 27 par. 3]

10. Even if there was no measure of consent by Dinah, she still bore some responsibility for losing her virginity. (Gen. 34:1, 2) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*85 6/15 p. 31 par. 4.]

Answer the following questions:

11. What did Satan suggest by the reasoning presented at Genesis 3:1-5? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 7/15 p. 5 par. 1.]
God was holding back info for her

12. At Revelation 19:15, what is represented by the "sharp long sword" that protrudes out of Jesus' mouth? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 5/15 p. 4 par. 4.] destruction

13. What is emphasized by the fact that Moses provides specific dates in connection with the Flood of Noah's day? [*g*97 2/8 p. 26 par. 4] real

14. How did Abraham "call on the name of Jehovah"? (Gen. 12:8) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 7/1 p. 20 par. 9.]

15. In the context, what did Jehovah mean when he told Paul: "My undeserved kindness is sufficient for you"? (2 Cor. 12:9) [*w*97 6/1 p. 25 par. 3] - Don't
me again

16. What evidently motivated Lot's wife to look back, causing her to become a pillar of salt? (Gen. 19:26) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 4/15 p. 18 par. 10.]

17. How do Christians view the purchasing of stolen goods? (Ex. 22:1; Jer. 17:11) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 6/15 p. 30 par. 3; p. 31 pars. 1, 6-7.]
wrong - Partakers w/ thief

18. According to Genesis 33:18, how did Jacob show that he was not interested in associating with Canaanites? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 9/15 p. 21 par. 4.]
Pitched tent outside city

19. How did Joseph's actions described at Genesis 37:13 parallel those of Jesus? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 5/1 p. 12 par. 12.] willingness

20. What is the difference between God and men when it comes to expressing anger? [*g*97 6/8 p. 19 pars. 2-3]
God is perfect

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Imputing wrong motives to others without just cause is tantamount to judging them. [*w*97 5/15 p. 26 par. 5]

22. The authenticity of the book of Genesis is shown by its internal ~~[illegible]~~ Harmony, as well as by its complete ~~[illegible]~~ agreement with the remainder of the inspired Scriptures. [*si* p. 14 par. 8]

23. The examples of Rehoboam and Eli can help parents appreciate the consequences of being too easy or too strict in child rearing. [*fy* pp. 80-1 pars. 9-13]

24. Taking in accurate knowledge is an important step in developing a godly ~~wisdom~~ Conscience. [*w*97 8/1 p. 4 par. 5]

25. To report wrongdoing is an act of Christian principled love shown toward God, toward the ~~[illegible]~~ Cong., and toward the ~~Cong.~~ Wrongdoer. [*w*97 8/15 p. 30 par. 2]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. (Strict; Mild; Proper) discipline is a proof of a parent's love for his child. (Heb. 12:6, 11) [*fy* p. 72 par. 18]

27. Genesis 7:6, 11 points to the year (2970; 2370; 2020) B.C.E., "when the deluge of waters occurred on the earth." [Weekly Bible reading; see *si* p. 294 chart.]

28. At John 8:32, the freedom Jesus had in mind was freedom from (Roman rule; superstition; sin and death). [*w*97 2/1 p. 5 par. 1]

29. In the final fulfillment of Genesis 22:18, the seed refers to (Isaac; the Israelites; Jesus and the 144,000). [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*98 2/1 p. 14 par. 8.]

30. It was (obedience to the Mosaic Law; the reality of God and a wholesome fear of displeasing him; fear of punishment) that helped Joseph to resist immoral temptations successfully. (Gen. 39:9) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*81 2/15 p. 7 par. 2.]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Prov. 5:3, 4; 15:22; 20:11; Eph. 5:19; 2 Tim. 3:16

31. It is vital for parents to make sure that their children wholeheartedly believe in the importance of living a moral and clean life. [*fy* p. 67 par. 8] Pro. 20:11

32. Confidential talk between parents and their teenage children is vital to keep the lines of communication open. [*fy* p. 65 par. 4] Prov 15:22

33. The key to improved singing at congregational meetings is having the right heart attitude. [*w*97 2/1 p. 27 par. 3] Eph 5:19

34. Having an understanding of the teachings of God's Word, the Bible, is a requirement for everlasting life. [*w*97 8/15 p. 6 par. 5] 2 Tim 3:16

35. To avoid the temptation of immorality, we must recognize that it is wrong and that it has disastrous and bitter consequences. [*fy* p. 93 par. 9] Prov 5:3,4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Happens to Us When We Die?, What Is the Purpose of Life —How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People, Our Problems —Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?,* and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.

- When working unassigned territory, publishers may offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. Any other publication may be offered if the householder already has these two publications. All should carry a variety of tracts for not-at-homes or individuals who do not accept literature. Efforts should be made to follow up interest, especially where unassigned territories may be worked by special pioneers or are accessible to nearby congregations.

- Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 1999 in Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Cards will be shipped in lots of 25, according to the size of each congregation. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregations, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Plastic badge card holders may be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

- It is necessary for the Society to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the secretary should complete and send a Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address (S-29) form to the Society promptly. This includes any changes in area codes.

- Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the following pioneer forms: Regular Pioneer Changes (S-204), Application for Regular Pioneer Service (S-205), Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service (S-205b), and Notification for Discontinuing Regular Pioneer Service (S-206). These can be ordered on the Literature Request Form (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Review the regular pioneer application form to make sure it is complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it.

- New Publications Available:

A Book for All People —Gujarati, Hindi
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Cree
How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability —Vietnamese
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Albanian, Croatian, Czech, East Armenian, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Turkish, Ukrainian
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Cambodian, Palauan, Spanish, Vietnamese
My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Tigrinya
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Hebrew
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Persian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1998 —English
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-95 —Dutch, Finnish, German
What Does God Require of Us? —Azerbaijani
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Cebuano, Croatian, Czech, East Armenian, German, Iloko, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Tagalog, Thai, Ukrainian, Urdu

- Beginning with the April 1, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Punjabi as a semimonthly edition.

Do You Have a Standing Order?

1 Have you ever gone to a meeting for field service and discovered that you had no magazines in your witnessing bag? Well, recall the September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert entitled "Make the Best Use of Our Magazines." It told us to "have a definite magazine order," stating: "Place a realistic order with the brother handling magazines for a definite number of copies of each issue. In this way, you and your family will have a regular and adequate supply of magazines." Have you done this?

2 Why not place a standing order for magazines? You will feel a greater responsibility to distribute the magazines week by week, and you will experience increased joy in doing so. If you already have a standing order, reevaluate whether you are obtaining the amount that you need for an average month in the ministry. Of course, we want to be faithful in picking up our order every week and should feel an obligation to do so. If you are going to be away from the congregation for an extended time, let the magazine servant know whether you want him to release your magazines to someone else until you return.

3 The same insert quoted above also said that we should "schedule a regular magazine day." Can you support the weekly Magazine Day? As shown on the *1999 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses,* this is every Saturday of the year! Do not underestimate the importance of distributing *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When we make an effort to share fully in magazine activity, we are "bringing good news of something better" to our neighbors. —Isa. 52:7.

"What Should I Do?"

[1] As a youth approaching adulthood, you might ask, 'What should I do with my life?' Christian youths want to expand their service to Jehovah in the ministry. But how can you do this while taking on the responsibilities of adulthood, which include providing for your own material needs? Finding the answer may not be easy.

[2] Some youths become anxious when they look at the world's economic situation and the forecasts for the future. They wonder: 'Should I pursue additional secular education? Should I enter the full-time service right away?' In order to make the right decision, a person needs to answer this question honestly, 'What is my foremost interest in life?' He must examine his motives.

[3] What have you cultivated as your prime concern during your youth? Are you mainly interested in seeking financial advantage, or do you really want to use your life to advance Kingdom interests? A university degree does not guarantee success in the job market. As an alternative, many have acquired marketable job skills by means of apprenticeship programs, some vocational or technical school education, or short-term college courses that require a minimum of time and involvement.

[4] **Take Jehovah at His Word:** An all-important fact to consider is the assurance from Jehovah God that he will provide for those who put Kingdom interests first in life. (Matt. 6:33) This is not an idle promise. Many brothers attending the Ministerial Training School earned college degrees prior to learning the truth. But what were they doing for secular work? Very few were pursuing the career for which they had been educated. Many were working in service-oriented fields, caring very well for their financial needs while pioneering. By expanding their activity in the ministry, they are receiving blessings far beyond anything monetary.

[5] In deciding what you should do after graduation from high school, weigh all the factors and examine your motives carefully. For a balanced view of your choices, consider such information as appeared in *Awake!* of March 8, 1998, pages 19-21. Speak with your parents, the elders, your circuit overseer, and successful pioneers in your area. That will help you make a wise decision about what you should do with your life.—Eccl. 12:1, 13.

How Family Members Cooperate for a Full Share —In the Ministry

[1] What could be more heartwarming than seeing husbands and wives, parents and children working together in the Christian ministry, publicly praising the name of Jehovah? (Ps. 148: 12, 13) All families should have a good routine for regular participation in the field service. Does your family have a set day each week to spend in the ministry? If so, then everyone knows exactly what to plan for and can have a full share.—Prov. 21:5a.

[2] In advance of a family service day, why not make it a joint project to prepare the presentations that your family will use? Practice sessions can be most helpful, and they can engender a true spirit of family cooperation. How rewarding it is when the field ministry is a family affair and all members are well prepared!

[3] A traveling overseer accompanied an entire family in the magazine activity. While he was working from house to house with one of the daughters, she inquired: "How long are you going to work with me?" Then she explained that she was going to work with her father next. It was obvious that she and her father really enjoyed their service together. What a fine family spirit!

[4] Some families may be able to auxiliary pioneer together one month during the year. Or it may be possible for at least one member of the family to serve continuously as an auxiliary pioneer or even to enroll as a regular pioneer. With good organization and cooperation, perhaps all members of the household would be able to increase their personal share in the service by giving support to the one who is pioneering. The family will certainly be blessed by this increased activity and by the good experiences that are enjoyed in the ministry. —Mal. 3:10.

[5] Having a full share in the evangelizing work will help keep families close, zealous, productive, and happy in Jehovah's service!—Compare Philippians 2:1, 2.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/99 Vol. 42, No. 5

Teach Others to Benefit Themselves

1 Jehovah wants all people to benefit themselves. (Isa. 48:17) He knows what brings us genuine happiness. His earnest desire is for humans to avoid calamity and to enjoy life by paying attention to his commandments. We are benefiting ourselves greatly by living our lives God's way. (Ps. 34:8) How can we teach others to do the same?

2 **What Do People Want?** What concerns householders where you live? Is it not the security of their home, the strength of their marriage, the future of their children, and similar matters? When they have problems, where do they turn for help? They may rely on themselves, on self-help programs, or on the guidance of others. In the process, many are left bewildered by inconsistent and impractical ideas as to how to benefit themselves. We must convince them that what God's Word offers in the way of guidance is far better. (Ps. 119:98) We can do this by showing them how they can improve the quality of their lives even now if they make the effort to study the Bible and apply what it says. —2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

3 **Improved Family Life:** Few people realize how well the inspired counsel at Ephesians 5:22–6:4 works in resolving family problems. This was the case with a couple who, after ten years of marriage, decided that they would separate. However, a Bible study was started with the wife, who was taught Scriptural principles regarding married life. The husband soon noticed the changes she was making as she applied Bible principles, and he joined in the study. He later said: "Now we have found the basis for a really happy family life."

4 **Real Purpose in Life:** When a young drug addict sought help from the Witnesses, he was taught that Jehovah cares about him personally. He said: 'I learned that the Creator has a purpose for man and holds out everlasting life to those in his favor. You can't imagine how happy I felt about this. Today I enjoy good health, peace of mind, and a close relationship with God.'

5 No one is beyond benefiting from the practical help found in God's Word. By using it as our guide, we confirm that Jehovah's way is far superior to the ways of the world. (Ps. 116:12) It is our privilege to convey this message to others, teaching them to benefit themselves. As we do so, we will see many fine results.

Plan Ahead!

1 Jehovah's organization provides a regular program of theocratic activities designed to satisfy our spiritual needs. Appreciation moves us to take full advantage of everything arranged, such as visits of the traveling overseer, assemblies and conventions, and other special activities planned locally. (Matt. 5:3) However, some miss out on many of these spiritual provisions because of other commitments they have made. What can be done to prevent this? How can we make sure that nontheocratic activities do not crowd out "the more important things"?—Phil. 1:10.

2 **Wise Planning Is Essential:** Proverbs 21:5 admonishes: "The plans of the diligent one surely make for advantage, but everyone that is hasty surely heads for want." To get the spiritual "advantage," we need to plan ahead diligently, keeping in mind theocratic activities that have been arranged. We should schedule our personal activities for a time when they will not interfere with our being on hand to reap spiritual blessings. If we hastily make plans to do things we personally want to do, without giving thought to upcoming theocratic events, it is likely that we will suffer spiritual "want."

3 **Do Not Miss Out!** All of us make plans for the future, including for vacations, business trips, visits with relatives, and so forth. Before you commit yourself or finalize your plans, consult the schedule of upcoming spiritual activities. If you find that the circuit overseer is coming or that an assembly is scheduled at the same time you might be away, make an earnest effort to rearrange your affairs so that you can participate. We are informed well in advance about major events scheduled for the future. The elders in your congregation can tell you what has been planned locally.

4 By exercising foresight and planning ahead for the more important things, we will be "filled with righteous fruit, . . . to God's glory and praise."—Phil. 1:11.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MAY

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention and then for a 30-minute review of the program highlights at the Service Meeting the following week. The day-by-day review of the convention program should be assigned in advance to three qualified brothers, who will focus on outstanding points. This well-prepared review will help the congregation remember key points for personal application and for use in the field. Any comments from the audience and experiences related should be brief and to the point.

Week Starting May 3

Song 7

8 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Theocratic News.

17 min: "Teach Others to Benefit Themselves." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Using chapter 13 of the *Knowledge* book, illustrate how people are benefited in a practical way by studying, understanding, and applying Bible principles.

20 min: "Ways to Expand Your Ministry." Two elders discuss the article in response to questions posed by different ones in the audience. A teenage publisher, a married couple, and a brother of retirement age ask about ways that they might expand their ministry. Practical suggestions are offered from the article and chapter 9 of the *Our Ministry* book, focusing on "What Are Your Spiritual Goals for the Future?," pages 116-18. The publishers express appreciation for the helpful information the Society provides that shows how to plan for expanded service activity in the immediate future.

Song 11 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 10

Song 15

8 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

12 min: What Are Your Plans for the Summer? A family reviews their arrangements for attending the convention, auxiliary pioneering, vacationing, and recreation. (See May 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 7.) They discuss how to plan for and do informal witnessing, and they demonstrate how to initiate a conversation. Stress need to keep up with personal and family Bible study, to get to congregation meetings when traveling elsewhere, and to report field service activity to the home congregation. The family reminisces about the good experiences they have had visiting other congregations and the joy that they felt. They consider ways that they can show hospitality to any visitors who come to the congregation.

25 min: "1999 'God's Prophetic Word' District Conventions." (Paragraphs 1-16) Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 6, 8, 11, and 16. Stress reasons why we should attend the entire convention, including the Friday sessions. Emphasize the importance of following the Society's direction to bring our own lunch to the convention each day.

Song 19 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 17

Song 27

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Plan Ahead!" A talk reviewing all the theocratic activities planned locally for the next several months. Encourage everyone to mark the dates on their calendar and not to allow other things to interfere.

20 min: "1999 'God's Prophetic Word' District Conventions." (Paragraphs 17-24) Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 18-21. Use the quoted and cited scriptures to emphasize why dress, grooming, and conduct are matters requiring our close attention.

Song 29 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 24

Song 41

15 min: Local announcements. Announce special field service arrangements for May 31. Review the Society's letter of October 15, 1998, dealing with the Please Follow Up (S-43) form. Explain how this can help in following up interest found when doing informal witnessing and when contact is made with people who speak another language. Encourage publishers to make good use of these forms.

12 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

18 min: Are We Sharing in a Separating Work? Motivating talk by service overseer, based on July 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 30-1.

Song 32 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 31

Song 43

15 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for May. Review literature offer for June. When offering the *Knowledge* book, may include a copy of an older 192-page book that is overstocked in the congregation. Demonstrate a sample presentation, making mention of the donation arrangement.

15 min: Local needs.

15 min: What's Wrong With My Religion? Discussion between two ministerial servants. We encounter many people who are favorable toward the truth and admire Jehovah's Witnesses. However, the ties they maintain with their church hinder them. They find it difficult to believe that we have the only true religion and that their form of worship is false. This becomes a major barrier to their spiritual progress. The brothers review the six factors mentioned on page 204 of the *Reasoning* book, which clearly show that other religions do not follow the Bible. Encourage the audience to use these points in tactfully helping sincere ones evaluate their religious beliefs.

Song 50 and concluding prayer.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**147**	**123.4**	**92.7**	**53.9**	**5.1**
Pios.	**77,672**	**63.3**	**42.6**	**21.1**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**20,921**	**49.7**	**34.7**	**13.8**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**834,383**	**8.7**	**7.3**	**3.3**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**933,123**		Baptized: **1,609**		

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1999 "God's Prophetic Word" District Conventions

[1] When the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses entreated them to appreciate God's instruction. He told them: "It is no valueless word for you, but it means your life." (Deut. 32:45-47) Are we not grateful to Jehovah that our lives are so precious to him that he continues to guide us by means of his priceless Word? We therefore eagerly anticipate the three-day "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention and what Jehovah has in store for us.

[2] This year, district conventions are planned conveniently in 70 cities throughout the contiguous United States. Besides English and Spanish, the convention program will be conducted in American Sign Language, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Additionally, for the first time in this country, the complete district convention program will be held in the Armenian and Russian languages, and sessions will be held in Polish.

Plan to attend all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday!

[3] No doubt you have already made arrangements to attend every day of the convention because you believe that Jehovah expects you to be in attendance. Be assured that he sees the individual efforts and sacrifices that his servants make to attend, and he remembers such with appreciation. (Heb. 6:10) By attending each convention day from opening song to concluding prayer, we demonstrate to Jehovah that we value his words to us. (Deut. 4:10) We also show appreciation for the hard work of our many brothers involved in preparing for the convention.

[4] Arranging for thousands of God's people to gather at each convention location requires advance planning and good organization. Knowing that convention arrangements have lovingly been made should move us to cooperate, so that "all things take place decently and by arrangement." (1 Cor. 14:40) The following information and reminders are provided so that you may arrive at your convention fully prepared to enjoy the spiritual food and Christian fellowship.

Before the Convention

[5] Do those with whom you conduct Bible studies and other interested ones need assistance in making personal arrangements to attend the convention? What they see and hear while there may move them to become worshipers of Jehovah. (1 Cor. 14:25) Elders should be aware of anyone requiring assistance with lodging or transportation, particularly older members of the congregation, and lovingly see that their needs are met.—Gal. 6:10.

[6] Are your arrangements for accommodations finalized? If staying in a hotel, do you have a confirmation number and have you sent your deposit to the hotel? By now, any Special Needs Room Request forms approved by the Congregation Service Committee should have been mailed to the appropriate convention address by the congregation secretary. If you have been assigned accommodations under the special needs arrangement and you must cancel them, please inform the local Rooming Department immediately so that the accommodations can be reassigned. The address and telephone number can be found at the top of page 1 on the Recommended Lodging List for your convention.

[7] If you need information about a convention, the congregation secretary can provide you with the address of a specific location, as found on the back of the Special Needs Room Request form. Please do not phone or write the management of the convention facility.

[8] Since the First Aid Department at the convention is set up to handle emergency situations only, we recommend that you bring your own aspirin, bandages, inhalers, digestive aids, and similar items to the convention if you believe such may be needed. If you or a loved one has a serious existing condition, such as a heart problem, diabetes, or risk of seizures, please bring the necessary medication to the convention to care for these needs as though you were at home or on vacation. It would be wise for a family member or close friend who understands the situation to remain in the company of the person, since that one would be in the best position to provide the needed assistance.

[9] Opportunities to do informal witnessing will likely arise as you travel to and from the convention. Will you be prepared to share the truth with others? All of us, including young children, can be involved by offering tracts to gas station attendants, toll collectors, and others you meet in your travels. Opportunities will present themselves to place magazines, brochures, or other literature with interested ones. Be prepared to witness informally to people who may otherwise be missed by more conventional preaching methods.

During the Convention

[10] Doors will open at the convention site at 8:00 a.m. each day. You may save seats only for those in your immediate family or car group. Convenient seating will be reserved for elderly brothers and sisters, and areas will be set aside for the disabled and those requiring wheelchair access. It is not possible to set aside special rooms at the convention site for those who have environmental illnesses or allergies. Each day as you are leaving your seating area, please check to make sure that you have all your belongings.

[11] In order to assemble in large numbers for our district conventions, we are required to comply with local laws, fire regulations, and other safety considerations. Therefore, baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought into the building where we are assembling. These are trip hazards in areas of foot traffic or between rows of seats. However, child safety seats that will fit into a seat next to the parents and can be secured there are acceptable.

[12] Are you getting baptized at the district convention? For the Saturday morning session, a section of seats will be reserved for baptismal candidates, and the attendants will direct you to this location. If at all possible, please be seated there before the session begins. Bring along your Bible, songbook, towel, and a *modest* swimsuit. Cutoffs, T-shirts with slogans, and similar attire are inappropriate for such a dignified occasion. Elders reviewing the questions in the *Our Ministry* book with baptismal candidates should make sure that each one understands these points. Since baptism is a symbol of personal dedication to Jehovah God, it would be inappropriate for candidates to hold hands while being baptized.

[13] You may use cameras, camcorders, and audiocassette recorders at the convention. However, their placement or use should not block aisles, obstruct the view of others, or distract attention from the program. They must be self-contained —that is, not connected to the electrical or sound systems.

[14] For those with impaired hearing, arrangements will be made for the convention program to be broadcast in the area of the convention site via FM radio. An announcement will be made at the beginning of the first session as to where on the FM broadcast band the program can be found. You will need to bring your own small FM receiver with earphones.

[15] As the use of cellular phones and pagers increases, please be careful that

these devices do not interfere with either your attention to the program or the concentration of those seated around you. These devices should not be allowed to ring or beep audibly while you are seated in the audience. If it is necessary for you to use a cellular phone while the program is in progress, please do so outside of the auditorium.

[16] In the interests of time and simplicity, the Society has asked us to bring our own lunches to the convention each day. Most brothers have followed this direction and have found that after being dismissed for the noon break, they can sit down with their families and eat what they have brought along for the day. Many have said that the opportunity to relax during the noon break and spend additional time with their brothers and sisters has been enjoyable. This requires purchasing foodstuffs and beverages ahead of time and packing them in a small container or cooler that can fit under the seat. We request that all in attendance follow this instruction. Lately, building managers and food vendors in the facilities where our conventions are held have observed some brothers leaving the auditorium to purchase food from street vendors and fast-food establishments nearby. Some of the food vendors in the convention facilities being used are now demanding that they be allowed to open their food stands and serve the delegates attending our conventions. If this were permitted, many worldly people would be mixing in company with us during the day. Also, congestion and long lines around the concession stands would return, disturbing the relaxed atmosphere of our conventions. Therefore, we ask that each one endeavor to bring his own food and beverage to the convention each day. Interested ones accompanying you to the convention should also bring their own food. Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facilities.

[17] Can you volunteer to help clean the facility after the sessions each day? Or can you work in one of the other convention departments? If you can assist, please come to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age are welcome to work along with a parent or another responsible adult. Of course, everyone can help clean the facility by seeing that any trash is picked up and disposed of properly.

[18] We have received fine guidelines as to what constitutes appropriate dress and grooming at our conventions. For example: We have direction on this matter in *Our Kingdom Ministry* inserts, we have illustrations and pictures in our literature, and most important of all, we have what Jehovah says in the Bible. (Rom. 12:2; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10) People know who we are and why we have gathered in their city. Thus, our dress and grooming is a powerful witness in itself. The majority of Jehovah's people set a good example in this area. Occasionally, though, we see the spirit of the world reflected in the dress and grooming of some who attend our conventions. Revealing clothing of any sort brings into question the individual's claim to be a spiritual person. A modest, clean, neat appearance is what is most appealing. Family heads should, therefore, take note of what their family members are planning to wear. This would also apply when we are away from the convention site. Wearing our lapel badges before and after the day's sessions further identifies us with Jehovah and his clean people.—Compare Mark 8:38.

[19] Wise King Solomon was inspired to observe that "foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy" and "a boy let on the loose will be causing his mother shame." (Prov. 22:15; 29:15) During the sessions, unsupervised younger Witnesses have caused disturbance to brothers and sisters trying to benefit from the program. During last year's conventions, some young ones were found sitting in upper seating sections, sweeping laser pointers

around the audience. The light from these pointers is intense and can cause eye damage, even at long range. It is obvious that these youths were not benefiting from the spiritual program that had been prepared with them in mind. Since parents are accountable to Jehovah for the conduct of their children, a mother or father can be confident that children are behaving and listening to Jehovah's instruction only if the children are seated with them. Attendants will approach any who are causing a distraction and request that they desist from doing so, kindly reminding them to pay attention to the program.

[20] Because we welcome the public to our conventions, it is wise to take precautions regarding children and personal belongings. Our children are a precious gift from Jehovah. But we know that the world reflects Satan's predatory nature. Hence, please know where your children are at all times. Also, cameras, purses, and other valuables should be with you at all times and not be left at your seat. Make sure that your vehicle is locked, and place personal belongings in the trunk or take them with you. This reduces the temptation for someone to break into your vehicle.

[21] The local Rooming Department is eager to assist you if a problem arises with your hotel reservation. Please inform the Rooming Department of any problems *while you are still at the convention.* The brothers will be happy to help you resolve the matter so that you can continue to enjoy the convention. Also, in connection with rooming, please note the following:

- Since many of Jehovah's people are staying at hotels, it may not be possible for everyone to obtain a nonsmoking room, even if you requested this when you made your reservation.
- Please observe check-in and checkout times at the hotel where you are staying. If requested in advance, hotels may honor an early check-in or late checkout.
- It is becoming less and less safe to carry cash. It may be to your advantage to put restaurant or other charges on your room bill and pay for them when you check out of the hotel.
- Television and video services available in hotels often provide access to channels that feature pornographic programs. If requested, most hotels will block out certain channels or features from your room for the duration of your stay. As at home, please supervise your children's use of the television.

[22] It is encouraging to see brothers and sisters taking notes during the convention sessions. Brief notes will help you concentrate and bring main points back to mind. Reviewing your notes later with family or friends allows you to meditate on convention highlights so that they are not forgotten.

[23] Jehovah's people have always been generous in contributing toward theocratic interests. (Ex. 36:5-7; 2 Chron. 31:10; Rom. 15:26, 27) Your voluntary contributions toward the worldwide work are used to cover the expenses associated with renting the large facilities in which the conventions are held. If your contribution is made by check, please make it payable to "Watchtower."

[24] As recorded at Amos 3:7, Jehovah said he "will not do a thing unless he has revealed his confidential matter to his servants the prophets." As the "Revealer of secrets," Jehovah has had recorded in the Bible hundreds of prophecies that have been accurately and completely fulfilled. (Dan. 2:28, 47) Grand promises are yet to be realized. The 1999 "God's Prophetic Word" District Conventions will strengthen your faith in God's promises. Listen closely to Jehovah's word for you. Apply what you will see and hear—in the ministry, in the congregation, and in your personal life. We pray Jehovah's rich blessing on all your arrangements to attend every day of this rich, spiritual feast!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Happens to Us When We Die?, What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People, Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?,* and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.

■ New Publications Available:
Jehovah's Witnesses and Education —East Armenian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Wolof
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Russian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1996 —German
Watch Tower Publications Index 1997 —Japanese
What Does God Require of Us? —Sinhalese
Will This World Survive? (Tract No. 19) —Armenian

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Keep Your Eye Simple (Drama, single cassette) —Spanish
Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them (single cassette) —Chinese (Mandarin)
What Does God Require of Us? —Portuguese
Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette) —Italian

■ New Compact Discs Available:
Watchtower Library—1997 Edition —Portuguese

■ New Videocassettes Available:
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —Korean

■ Beginning with the July 8, 1999, issue, *Awake!* will be available in Maltese as a monthly edition.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

■ **Albania:** A new peak of 1,556 publishers reporting in January represents a 20-percent increase over last year's average.

■ **Belau:** December's total of 73 publishers is a 20-percent increase over last year's average and a 22-percent increase over December of the previous year.

■ **Canada:** Four hundred and sixty new regular pioneers were appointed for January 1, 1999.

■ **United States:** Disaster relief committees were appointed by the Society to care for damage caused by storms in the southern United States. This included flooding in Texas and damage caused by Hurricane Georges in the Florida Keys. Neighbors were amazed at the way the Society arranged to help the brothers and at the way the relief work was carried out.

QUESTION BOX

■ Parents should exercise what cautions when their minor children share in field service?

Christian parents properly take their children along with them in the field ministry, training them to share the Kingdom good news with others. In doing so, there is a need to keep a watchful eye on their young ones because of potential dangers in the territory, even in the "safer" neighborhoods. More and more, children are the objects of violence and abuse because of the increase of greed and sexual depravity in these "critical times" in which we live. (2 Tim. 3:1-5) Parents need to take reasonable precautions to safeguard their little ones from those who would prey upon them. What can be done?

The Bible wisely counsels that we be cautious and look ahead to foresee danger. (Prov. 22:3; Matt. 10:16) The intent here is not to make rules, but it is wise for a parent or other adult to accompany a child when engaging in field service. If two responsible young publishers work together, it is advisable for a parent or another adult to have them in view at all times. Of course, as a child grows older and proves more responsible, parents can decide if he or she requires less direct parental supervision. —See also the October 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

It is also wise to be ever mindful of safety while traveling by automobile and while walking about. Taking proper precautions often prevents accidents and the tragic burdens of pain, medical expenses, and possible legal liabilities in the increasingly litigious world around us.

It is fitting for young ones to "praise the name of Jehovah." (Psalm 148:12, 13) Their winsome words and good behavior while in the field ministry are very impressive to others and bring honor to Jehovah. Parents, by all means, help your children to share regularly in proclaiming the good news as you are also ever alert to protect them from any potential dangers that exist!

Ways to Expand Your Ministry

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[1] Over 40 years ago, an article entitled "Is Your Best Good Enough?" appeared in the January 15, 1955, *Watchtower*. It lovingly pointed out how it may be possible for Jehovah's people to improve their individual effort in the ministry so that they may increase their Kingdom activity. That good advice also applies today, as we continue to make our best even better.

[2] All our service should be motivated by the greatest commandment: "You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength." (Mark 12:30) We demonstrate our complete love for Jehovah by using to the full the opportunities that are available to us to advance his Kingdom work. Consider the following ways that you might expand your ministry.

[3] **Shoulder Your Responsibility:** Dedicated brothers can strive to qualify as ministerial servants and then advance to serving as elders. The articles "Are You Reaching Out?" and "Are You Qualified to Serve?," in the September 1, 1990, issue of *The Watchtower,* have motivated many brothers to make themselves available for congregation responsibilities. Inquire of your local elders for specific suggestions on how to reach out and qualify.

[4] Elders and ministerial servants who are single are invited to think seriously about applying for the Ministerial Training School. You can familiarize yourself with this school by reading the references under "Ministerial Training School" in the *Watch Tower Publications Indexes* for 1986-1995, 1996, and 1997. Do you see that 'large door of activity' opening before you? (1 Cor. 16:9a) Many brothers who stepped through it never envisioned all the privileges of service on the other side. Today they enjoy serving at Bethel or in the field as special pioneers, missionaries, or circuit overseers. P118

[5] **Reach Out for Full-Time Service:** Youths graduating from high school, housewives, and any who have reached retirement age should seriously consider pioneering. Review the July 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, P114 then talk to pioneers whose circumstances were similar to those in your own life. It may be that you will be motivated to expand your ministry by pioneering, as they are doing. (1 Cor. 11:1) What would it take to expand your activity to 70 hours a month and thus serve as a regular pioneer?

[6] More than 17,000 brothers and sisters now serve in branch offices and Bethel homes around the world. The March 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* discusses what is required to apply for such service. Why not read that insert and see if you are one who might qualify for the unique privilege of Bethel service?

[7] **Serve Where the Need Is Greater:** Do you live where the territory is worked quite often or where there are many brothers to share the load? Have you thought about expanding your ministry by moving to where the need is greater? Perhaps the move can be to a nearby rural area where more workers are needed. (Matt. 9:37, 38) This should not be done in haste. It merits prayerful consideration. (Luke 14:28-30) Discuss your situation with the elders and the circuit overseer. They will reason with you on whether it is wise to make such a move now or to prepare to do so in the future. If you wish to write to the Society for a suggestion as to where you could move, a letter signed by your Congregation Service Committee must accompany your letter.

[8] **Improve the Quality of Your Service:** Likely we can all share more fully in the ministry by improving the quality of our field service. Are you involved in all features of the work, including house-to-house and informal witnessing as well as the return visit and Bible study work? If you are conducting a study, can you improve your art of teaching? It would be good to review the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for suggestions that you can use to motivate your students toward dedication and baptism.

[9] A more extensive discussion of ways to expand and improve our ministry is found in chapter 9 of *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry.* Surely all of us should desire to do as much as possible in God's service. Why not give serious thought to your spiritual goals? Do as 1 Timothy 4:15 recommends: "Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons.")

[illegible] +

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 1999 For United States of America km-E Us 6/99 Vol. 42, No. 6

We Are Taught by Jehovah

1 Under divine direction an international educational program now operates in 233 lands. Nothing this world has to offer can compare with it. Our Grand Instructor, Jehovah, is teaching us how to benefit ourselves now as he also educates us for eternal life.—Isa. 30:20; 48:17.

2 **Schools of Divine Education:** Consider the schools currently in progress for the benefit of Jehovah's people. The Theocratic Ministry School, conducted weekly in some 87,000 congregations, trains millions of Kingdom publishers to be effective ministers of the good news. Have you enrolled in it? Are you among the thousands who have attended the two-week Pioneer Service School? Perhaps the reduced hour requirement for regular pioneers will enable more to pioneer and qualify to attend this school. The two-month Ministerial Training School, now conducted in principal languages around the world, is equipping unmarried elders and ministerial servants to take on greater theocratic responsibilities. Periodically, all elders and ministerial servants receive specialized instruction in the Kingdom Ministry School.

3 Facilities at the Watchtower Educational Center in Patterson, New York, are being used to house three special schools, which provide advanced theocratic training. The five-month course of the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead prepares ministers for missionary work in foreign fields. Branch Committee members from around the world attend a two-month course on branch organization. In May 1999 a new two-month course for traveling overseers began with a class of 48 students from the United States and Canada. All of Jehovah's servants ultimately receive fine benefits from the training Jehovah is providing through these various schools.

4 **Taught for What Purpose?** A member of the Governing Body stated: "Our current educational program is designed to bring all of Jehovah's people everywhere into the fine condition of maturity described at Proverbs 1:1-4." May Jehovah continue to give each one of us "the tongue of the taught ones." —Isa. 50:4.

Do You See Only the Outward Appearance?

1 As we conduct our public ministry, our first impression of some people may make us hesitate to share the good news with them. For example, how would you react if a fierce-looking man always eyed you suspiciously when you called on his neighbor who had shown interest in the truth? A pioneer sister who experienced this decided to approach the man and speak to him. He greeted her rudely. But, amazingly, he listened to the Bible's message and with some excitement agreed to study. As a result of the sister's not judging by outward appearances, the way was opened for this man and his wife to learn the truth.

2 Another sister was initially frightened by the outward appearance of a long-haired young man but persisted in witnessing to him briefly whenever he came into the store where she worked. Her efforts bore fruit, and the young man is now a baptized Witness. What will prevent us from hastily concluding that such ones will not respond?

3 **Imitating the Example of Jesus:** Jesus knew that he would give his life for *everyone*. Hence, he was not put off by the external appearance of others. He realized that even those with unsavory reputations might be willing to change if given the proper help and incentive. (Matt. 9:9-13) He tried to help both rich and poor alike. (Matt. 11:5; Mark 10:17-22) May we not judge the people we meet in the ministry by their outward appearance, blinding ourselves to what might be a good heart condition. (Matt. 7:1; John 7:24) What can help us to imitate Jesus' outstanding example?

4 Through our study of the Bible, we have come to appreciate that God's Word has the power to change one's thinking, conduct, and personality. (Eph. 4:22-24; Heb. 4:12) Therefore, while exercising due caution, we should keep a positive attitude and leave the rest in the hands of Jehovah, the One who reads human hearts.—1 Sam. 16:7; Acts 10:34, 35.

5 May our impartial sharing of the good news with all sorts of people, regardless of their outward appearance, contribute to the great harvest work in these last days.—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JUNE

Week Starting June 7

Song 45

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Theocratic News.

15 min: "We Are Taught by Jehovah." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Invite audience to relate some of the benefits they have received from the Theocratic Ministry School, Pioneer Service School, Kingdom Ministry School, and so forth. Stress how these have helped Jehovah's people to become more effective in the ministry.

20 min: "Make Your Time Count." Discussion between a Congregation Book Study conductor and one or two experienced publishers who relate how they manage their time to share as fully as possible in the field service. They explain the importance of a workable schedule and stress the need for one. They tell how they avoid such time wasters as getting a late start, poor advance planning, or too much socializing during the ministry. Considering local circumstances, offer practical suggestions on how to make time count.

Song 48 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 14

Song 63

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Can You Give a Helping Hand?" Audience discussion conducted by an elder. Include the suggestions given in the October 8, 1995, *Awake!,* pages 8-9, for helping single parents. Invite some to express their appreciation for the loving assistance that they have received from others in the congregation.

Song 53 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 21

Song 72

10 min: Local announcements. If the congregation has copies of the *Young People Ask* or *Youth* books in stock, show how they can be used to good advantage in the ministry during the summer months, when we are more likely to find teenagers at home.

17 min: Make Good Use of Videos and Sound Dramas. Could the 10 videos and 11 sound drama audiocassettes provided by the Society be put to better use? Have you and your family watched or listened to every one of them? Review several titles, pointing out how they can enhance our reading of the Bible, strengthen our spirituality, and give a fine witness to the truth. Play brief excerpts from two or three audiocassettes. Ask the audience to comment on which video or sound drama they found especially effective in encouraging their own family or in directing new ones to the organization. Relate some experiences showing good results. (See the *1999 Yearbook,* pages 51-2.) Encourage all to make good use of the videos and sound dramas.

18 min: "Do You See Only the Outward Appearance?" Talk and audience discussion. Stress the reasons why we should not hastily form opinions about the people we meet. Briefly review the lesson Jehovah taught Jonah, who wrongly judged those whom he viewed as unworthy. (See the August 15, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 21-2, paragraphs 17-19.) Invite audience to comment on the variety of people they have encountered in the territory, telling how they maintain a positive attitude toward them and leave judgment in Jehovah's hands.

Song 77 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 28

Song 85

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for June. Review literature offer for July. Show the brochures that are locally available in good supply, and suggest one or two features that we can highlight in our presentations. Include a well-rehearsed demonstration.

13 min: Why Does Jehovah Permit Persecution of His People? Talk by an elder, based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom,* pages 676-7. As Jesus foretold, we are 'hated by all the nations.' (Matt. 24:9) We may face opposition when we share in the ministry, associate with worldly relatives, or deal with non-Witnesses in the workplace or at school. In a positive way, speaker explains why Jehovah permits such persecution or opposition and how our enduring it will ultimately lead to blessings.

20 min: Go Where the People Are! A talk based on the *1997 Yearbook,* pages 42-8. While we should continue sharing regularly in house-to-house witnessing, we eagerly look for opportunities to do informal witnessing—anytime, anywhere. Relate experiences from the *Yearbook* showing how others have done so with good success while riding a bus, walking on the street or beach, approaching parked cars, going to truck stops, using the telephone, and writing letters. As time permits, invite audience to relate some experiences of their own. Encourage all to take advantage of every opportunity to give a witness wherever the people are.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

■ **Armenia:** The December report showed 4,741 publishers averaging 16 hours each in the ministry. This new peak in publishers is a 17-percent increase over last year's average.

■ **Chile:** The new hour requirement for pioneers was welcomed with enthusiasm, as evidenced by an all-time peak of 4,351 regular pioneers reporting in January. Also, 5,175 reported as auxiliary pioneers, by far the best figure for this service year.

■ **Ukraine:** Of the 100,129 publishers reporting in January, 12 percent were in some form of full-time service. Ukraine reached 5,516 regular pioneers—the 27th consecutive peak—and an additional 6,468 publishers reported as auxiliary pioneers.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**161**	**123.2**	**95.9**	**56.9**	**4.4**
Pios.	**77,051**	**67.8**	**46.5**	**23.4**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**39,168**	**50.3**	**36.6**	**14.1**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**813,184**	**9.0**	**7.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**929,564**	Baptized: **1,825**			

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

- Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, September 11, 1999, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time. No congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup that day.

- The Society has a supply of ENGLISH bound volumes of *The Watchtower* for the years 1951 to 1955, 1958, 1959, 1969, 1989, 1995 to 1997, and the *Awake!* for the years 1989 and 1994 to 1997. Also, ENGLISH editions of the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* for 1987 as well as for the years 1992 to 1998 are available. Featured in the *1987 Yearbook* are such countries as Puerto Rico, Switzerland, and Trinidad; in the *1992 Yearbook*, Kenya, along with other East African countries, and the Solomon Islands; in the *1993 Yearbook*, Denmark, Honduras, and Malaysia. Any publishers or new congregations that desire these publications may now request them through the congregation literature servant. (See *Our Kingdom Ministry*, April 1997, Question Box; *The Watchtower*, November 1, 1994, pages 28-31.)

- Beginning with the June 1, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in the Tiv language as a monthly edition.

- New Publications Available:

Apply Yourself to Reading and Writing —Spanish
Comfort for the Depressed (Tract No. 20) —Armenian
Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Armenian
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Armenian, Croatian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Cambodian, Tatar
The Secret of Family Happiness —Armenian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1996 —Italian, Swedish
What Does God Require of Us? —Hausa, Kazakh
Who Really Rules the World? (Tract No. 22) —Armenian

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette) —Japanese

- New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault —Portuguese
Noah—He Walked With God —Japanese
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —German

Can You Give a Helping Hand?

1 The apostle Paul admonished congregation members to "have the same care for one another." (1 Cor. 12:25) Hence, we should show a personal interest in one another and be willing to render loving help when it is needed. As one example, some of the spiritual sisters in our midst are raising their children in the truth single-handedly. These sisters are carrying the full load of responsibility for the spiritual training of their offspring. Certainly they are worthy of our kind encouragement and practical assistance "according to their needs." (Rom. 12:13a) Can you give them a helping hand?

2 **Ways You Might Help:** Offering rides to meetings and assemblies to those who must rely on public transportation may result in considerable financial savings for that family. Helping a mother care for her small children at meetings may mean that she can benefit more fully from the program. Likewise, offering to assist her when she takes the children out in field service may provide her some relief. Displaying a genuine interest in the children—befriending them—can do much to influence our youths in a positive way. Occasionally inviting a single-parent family to sit in on your family study would provide a refreshing spiritual lift.

3 **Be Discreet:** We should be careful not to force our help upon one who does not feel the need for it. Nor would we want to intrude into a person's family affairs while rendering needed help. Of course, sisters and married couples would be in the best position to come to the aid of a sister who is in need.

4 All Christians are encouraged to "follow the course of hospitality" toward one another. (Rom. 12:13b) Giving a helping hand to our spiritual brothers and sisters is one of the many ways we show the Christlike love that we have among ourselves.—John 13:35.

Make Your Time Count

[1] Everyone has the same amount of time at his disposal each week. The portion that we devote to spreading the good news is especially valuable because it is time spent in a lifesaving work. (Rom. 1:16) We show our appreciation for this by preparing well for the service planned, arriving at meetings for service on time, and leaving promptly for the territory. We would rather be preaching than waiting. Since Jehovah has taught us that "for everything there is an appointed time," we need to make the time that we have set aside for the ministry really count.—Eccl. 3:1.

[2] **Manage Your Time Wisely:** Many blessings come to us when we steadfastly hold to a schedule that allows for regular participation in the field ministry. Naturally, the good results that we achieve in the ministry should be proportionate to the amount of time spent in the service. With some slight adjustments to our routine, could we devote more time to the field service? For example, after magazine activity on Saturday, could we take some additional time to make a few return visits? If we have been in the field ministry for a while on Sunday, could we spend some time also making return visits or conducting a Bible study? Would it be possible to supplement our house-to-house activity with some street witnessing? In these or other ways, we may be able to improve in our service.

[3] When we are out in the ministry, we can lose valuable time if we are not careful. Of course, when weather conditions are severe, a short break will refresh us and help us to keep going. Be balanced, however, since such breaks may not always be necessary.

[4] In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find people at home. To cope with this situation, many publishers do their door-to-door witnessing at a different time of day. Why not try witnessing in the late afternoon or early evening?

[5] It is better if we do not visit with one another while engaging in street work. Instead, stand apart from one another and approach the people so as to start conversations with them. Thus time will be managed more effectively and greater joy will be derived from the work.

[6] **Seize Opportunities to Witness:** When a householder said that she was not interested, a Witness asked if there was anyone else in the house with whom she might talk. This led to a conversation with the man of the house, who had been ill for many years and was largely confined to bed. The hope set out in God's Word renewed his interest in life. He was soon out of bed, attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall, and sharing his newfound hope with others!

[7] A teenage sister applied the suggestion to engage in field service during the hour before the Congregation Book Study. At her first door, she met a 13-year-old girl who listened intently and took literature. The next day at school, the young sister saw this same girl. Soon thereafter, she offered to study the Bible with her, and the girl accepted.

[8] **Make It Quality Time:** Having a regular share in field service helps us develop our skills in presenting the good news. Can you improve your ability to start a conversation at the door by using a more effective introduction? Could you become a more skillful teacher when conducting a home Bible study? By doing so, you can truly make your time in the service count and make your ministry more productive.—1 Tim. 4:16.

[9] Since "the time left is reduced," our lives should be filled with Christian works. (1 Cor. 7:29) Allotting time for the preaching activity should be high on our list of priorities. Let us have a healthy, zealous share in the ministry. Time is a wonderful asset that Jehovah has given us. Always use it wisely and make it count.

Consider These Suggestions:

- Arrive at meetings for service on time.
- Within reason, keep witnessing groups small.
- Avoid delays in getting to the territory.
- Work territory when most people are at home.
- Work alone at times if it is safe to do so.
- Make return visits nearest to the door-to-door territory.
- Keep busy in service when others in the group are delayed at a door.
- Whenever possible, depending on circumstances, stay out longer than an hour.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/99 Vol. 42, No. 7

Pray for Jehovah's Help

often we say need more help.

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¹ Jesus impressed upon his disciples the need for Jehovah's blessing on their ministry. (Matt. 9:37, 38) Our heartfelt prayers of praise and thanksgiving along with earnest petitions and supplications demonstrate our complete reliance on Jehovah for his help. (Phil. 4:6, 7) The Scriptures urge us to carry on prayer with "every form of prayer and supplication," and this would apply to our prayers concerning the ministry.—Eph. 6:18. To PRAY in Spirit?

² We praise Jehovah in prayer for his peerless qualities and accomplishments. We also praise him as the Giver of the good news that we preach. He deserves our praise because he alone makes our ministry successful.—Ps. 127:1.

³ Our prayers of thanksgiving express appreciation for the understanding that Jehovah has given us about his will and purpose. Is it not a privilege to share Kingdom truths with others? We thank Jehovah for all that we accomplish in the ministry.—Ps. 107:8; Eph. 5:20.

⁴ Very appropriately, we ask Jehovah for help in finding people who will accept our offer of a Bible study, and we ask for help in reaching their hearts with the truth. By making such petitions, we acknowledge that only God can make our work in the ministry productive.—1 Cor. 3:5-7.

⁵ A sister felt that a woman on her magazine route was not reading *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Not wanting these precious journals to go to waste, she petitioned Jehovah that if the woman was not reading them, she would refuse them. When the sister visited the next time, the woman's husband said: "Thank you for delivering these magazines regularly. I am reading them and really like them."

⁶ With humble and earnest entreaty, we can supplicate Jehovah to help us to deal with public apathy and ridicule and to overcome any fear of man in order to keep on boldly witnessing to others. (Acts 4:31) If we continue to carry on prayer with "every form of prayer and supplication" as we obediently pursue our sacred service, we can be confident of Jehovah's help.—1 John 3:22. why can we be confident?

Advance Preparation Brings Joy

¹ Sharing in the field ministry brings us great joy. (Ps. 89:15, 16) Of course, preparation is a key element in being able to experience that joy to the full. The better we prepare, the more we accomplish, and the more we accomplish, the greater our joy.

² **Use the Tools That Are Provided:** Begin your preparation by reading and analyzing the material in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* It often provides well-thought-out presentations that are designed to help you present the Kingdom message easily and effectively. You will find examples of how to absorb common objections. Specific ideas are offered on how to make an effective return visit, with the goal of starting a Bible study. You have freedom to adapt these suggestions to the point where you feel comfortable using them. Added to this, you have the *Reasoning* book, which supplies a wide variety of introductions as well as responses to conversation stoppers, thus helping you to become more effective in many of the situations that you encounter.

³ Look over the publication you will be offering, and pick one or two striking points of interest that you can show to the householder. A thought-provoking news item that you heard or read about might give you an opening to start a conversation. Anticipate common objections that you are likely to encounter, and get a few thoughts in mind as to how you might respond. Then take a few minutes to practice what you are going to say at the door.

⁴ **Attend Every Service Meeting:** Listen carefully during the Service Meeting when the suggestions presented in *Our Kingdom Ministry* are discussed, reviewed, and demonstrated. Take note of ideas that you feel can be incorporated into your presentation. Recall some of the common situations that you have encountered in the ministry, and think about ways in which you can witness more effectively. Talk about these things with other publishers before and after the meeting.

⁵ You can be sure that if you are "prepared for every good work," you will be rewarded with greater joy and success in helping others find the way to life.—2 Tim. 2:21.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JULY

Week Starting July 5

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on April field service report for the country and the local congregation. Theocratic News.

20 min: "Pray for Jehovah's Help." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Explain how sincere prayers of various kinds play a vital role in a successful ministry. Invite audience to relate experiences showing how timely prayers helped them in their ministry.—See October 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* page 32.

15 min: Make Good Use of Brochures. Talk and demonstrations. Explain why brochures are valuable tools in our ministry. They deal effectively with subjects that have wide appeal, cover one basic theme concisely, and explain Scriptural teachings simply. Mention the brochures being offered this month, and show the ones that are in good supply locally. Demonstrate two or three brief presentations based on suggestions found under the heading "Presentations" in the *Watch Tower Publications Index.*

Song 181 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 12

Song 103

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Advance Preparation Brings Joy." Talk and interviews. Explain why preparation is essential for field service activity and how it enables us to experience greater joy in what we do. (See *School Guidebook,* page 39, paragraphs 1-3.) Interview two or three capable publishers who tell how they prepare before going in service and how that helps them. Relate experience from April 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* page 30, showing effective use of the *Reasoning* book in preparing for the ministry.

20 min: "Let's 'Get to the Point!'" Audience participation and demonstrations. Review each suggestion of what to say to get a listening ear at the door. Have experienced publishers demonstrate several introductions that are effective. Invite audience to offer additional suggestions and relate encouraging experiences that show what really works locally.

Song 183 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 19

Song 31

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Do I Have to Join an Organization? Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, pages 280-4. We often encounter people who are receptive to the Kingdom message but who have an aversion to "joining" a religious organization. Review the definition of "organization" and the seven characteristics that identify Jehovah's visible organization. Explain why it is different from others and how association with it brings real blessings.

Song 189 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 26

Song 184

15 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for July. Question Box.

10 min: "New Circuit Assembly Program." A talk. Announce date of the next circuit assembly. Encourage new ones to think about getting baptized. Urge all to attend every session.

20 min: Are We Making Disciples? Service overseer discusses with one or two ministerial servants points from February 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 19-22. Highlight Scriptural reasons *why* we need to search out the deserving ones in our territory and make disciples of them. (Matt. 10:11) These are the ones who are sighing because of all the wicked and ungodly conditions they see around them and who are apt to seek Jehovah before the day of his anger breaks. (Ezek. 9:4; Zeph. 2:2, 3) Among them are 'those who are rightly disposed for everlasting life.' (Acts 13:48) Our commission is to be disciple makers, teaching people all the things that Jesus commanded. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) While we may stir the initial interest of those we meet in the house-to-house work, while informal witnessing, and in street work, we make disciples in the follow-up ministry—on return visits and Bible studies. Point out practical suggestions on how this can be done.

Song 14 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

■ What publications should we study with new ones prior to their baptism?

Before a person can dedicate his life to Jehovah and get baptized, he must take in accurate knowledge. (John 17:3) He will obtain the information he needs by studying *both* the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* and the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* In most cases the *Require* brochure will be studied first. However, if the study was started in the *Knowledge* book, the *Require* brochure should be studied after the book is completed. Why is this necessary?

The *Require* brochure provides an overview of the basic teachings of the Bible. If studied first, it will give the student a fundamental understanding of the requirements for pleasing Jehovah. If studied last, it will serve as a fine review of what was covered in the *Knowledge* book. In either case, encourage the student to look up the supporting scriptures and to meditate on them. Be sure to highlight the pictures, as they are very effective teaching aids.—See the January 15, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17.

Once a Bible student has completed a study of both publications, he may be able to answer all the questions that the elders will review with him in preparation for baptism. If so, it may not be necessary to conduct a formal study with him in any other publication, though the conductor should continue to take an active interest in his progress.—See the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 14, 17.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Jehovah Is 'a Secure Height' for His People."

■ New Publications Available:

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Albanian, Macedonian
"Let Your Kingdom Come" —Twi
My Book of Bible Stories —Lithuanian
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—Large Print (set of four volumes) —Portuguese
Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry —Macedonian
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Russian
Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Turkish
What Does God Require of Us? —Bambara, Ga
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Finnish, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Macedonian

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing God's Will With Zeal (Drama, single cassette) —Romanian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (five cassettes in an album) —Hungarian

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Noah—He Walked With God —Spanish
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —Greek

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Marshall Islands: February saw a total of 203 publishers—a 4-percent increase over the same month of last year!

Norway: In February 1999, auxiliary pioneers were up 72 percent over February 1998; regular pioneers, 9 percent; return visits, 4 percent; and Bible studies, 6 percent. Book and brochure placements also increased.

Romania: Fine increases were seen in the pioneer activity and in the number of Bible studies being conducted, with a new peak of 37,502 publishers in the field during February.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**148**	**124.1**	**109.0**	**54.7**	**4.6**
Pios.	**78,650**	**66.5**	**48.9**	**22.2**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**76,659**	**49.0**	**39.2**	**12.4**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**796,361**	**9.1**	**7.9**	**3.3**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**951,818**		Baptized: **2,705**		

The 78,650 regular pioneers reporting this month is an all-time peak! This is 616 more than our previous peak, reached in January 1999.

New Circuit Assembly Program

What practical benefits do you receive now from walking with Jehovah? How can you resist the temptation to allow nontheocratic pursuits to crowd Kingdom interests out of first place in your life? (Matt. 6:33) Do you find it difficult to discern right from wrong in a world that makes wrong appear right? (Heb. 5:14) These matters will be addressed at the "Benefit Now by Walking in God's Ways" circuit assembly, beginning in September 1999.—Ps. 128:1.

A new feature on Saturday of this circuit assembly will be the presentation of a model Service Meeting. Your circuit overseer will inform the congregations of what is planned so that all can come prepared to enjoy the program to the full.

The part entitled "Pioneers—Keep Strict Watch on How You Walk" will show us how to exercise wisdom and reasonableness in order to buy out the opportune time for the pioneer ministry. (Eph. 5:15-17) The subject "Beware of Ways That Merely Seem Right" will teach us how to make sure of what is acceptable to God in every aspect of life. The talk "How Fulfilled Prophecy Affects Us" will help to fill our minds and hearts with a love for God's Word. The public talk "God's Ways—How Beneficial!" will emphasize the practical benefits received now from keeping in step with Jehovah's righteous requirements.

Is it your desire to demonstrate publicly by water baptism that you want to walk in God's ways as one of his dedicated servants? Then speak with the presiding overseer so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Make it your resolve not to miss this timely circuit assembly. Be present for the entire two-day program, for "happy is everyone fearing Jehovah, who is walking in his ways."—Ps. 128:1.

Let's "Get to the Point!"

1 Have you ever had a householder interrupt your carefully prepared presentation with the words: "What do you want? Get to the point!" What can we learn from such an experience?

2 Many people today are impatient. They want to know who we are and why we are there. When they find out that the purpose of our visit is to discuss the Bible, they may close their minds. Bible reading and spiritual conversations are not important things in the lives of many people. How can we convince such householders that they should take a few minutes to discuss a Bible topic with us?

3 **What Works Best:** The key is to show the householder that the Bible provides practical solutions for the problems that concern him and to do so in as few words as possible. The most effective presentations feature a specific question designed to make the householder think, followed by a scripture that answers the question. You may enjoy trying some of the following suggestions. They are designed to help us "get to the point" quickly while arousing the interest of the householder.

4 *In territory where people often say that they are not interested, raise a question that involves them personally:*

■ "As we approach the next millennium, do you feel hopeful or doubtful? [Allow for response.] The Bible predicted the unsettling events we see today as well as their outcome." Read 2 Timothy 3:1, 2, 5 and Proverbs 2:21, 22.

■ "There is much concern in this country about health care. Did you know that God promises that he will permanently solve all health problems?" Read Revelation 21:3, 4.

■ "How do you think our community would benefit if everyone who lives here applied Bible principles?" Read Matthew 22:37-39.

5 *Since our commission is to preach the good news of the Kingdom, whenever possible we should call attention to what the Kingdom will accomplish. You might say:*

■ "Did you know that the world's oldest book, the Bible, foretold that there will be one government for the whole world?" Read Daniel 2:44.

■ "What do you think conditions would be like if Jesus Christ ruled the earth?" Read Psalm 72:7, 8.

6 *In territory where people are religious, you could try one of these introductions:*

■ "Many people suffer discrimination because of their gender, religion, or skin color. How do you think God feels about such prejudice?" Read Acts 10:34, 35.

■ "We know that Jesus Christ performed many miracles in his day. If you could ask him to perform one more miracle, what would it be?" Read Psalm 72:12-14, 16.

7 *If the householder is reluctant to open the door, you might start a conversation by saying:*

■ "Most people today are tired of hearing about problems. They want to hear about solutions. No doubt that is true of you. But where can we find real solutions to our problems?" Allow for response. Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

8 **Why Not Try It?** Oftentimes a simple, concise question is all that is needed to arouse a householder's interest. One woman who was formerly opposed invited two sisters into her home after one of them asked the question: "Can you identify the Kingdom that you pray for in the Lord's Prayer?" The woman was intrigued by the question, and she accepted a Bible study. She is now a dedicated servant of Jehovah!

9 When you are speaking to a householder, be genuine with your expressions. Speak from your heart. People are more likely to respond favorably when they are convinced that we are truly interested in them.—Acts 2:46, 47.

10 The work of preaching the good news is a challenge today. Some householders are suspicious of strangers. Others lead hectic lives and have little time to spare. Yet, we can be sure that there are still many deserving ones to be found. (Matt. 10:11) Our efforts to search for them are likely to be more successful if we keep our presentations brief and "get to the point!"

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/99 Vol. 42, No. 8

Highly Esteem Jehovah's Beautiful Name

[1] Satan defamed God's name when he induced our first parents to sin. The Devil insinuated that Jehovah had lied to Adam. (Gen. 3:1-5) Since the divine name is linked with God's ability to fulfill his word, Satan's allegation was the height of slander. By progressively fulfilling his divine purpose, Jehovah has cleared his name of reproach and made it beautiful. —Isa. 63:12-14.

[2] We are the people whom Jehovah has 'called by his name.' (Acts 15:14, 17) This gives us the opportunity to show how we feel about its sanctification. We find Jehovah's name to be truly beautiful, as it represents everything good, kind, loving, merciful, and righteous. We are filled with awe at the greatness of God's glorious name. (Ps. 8:1; 99:3; 148:13) What should we be moved to do?

[3] **Sanctify God's Name:** God's name cannot be made holier than it already is. But by our clean conduct and Kingdom preaching, we can demonstrate that we hold God's name in the very highest esteem. Let us exclaim: "Give thanks to Jehovah, you people! Call upon his name. Make known among the peoples his dealings. Make mention that his name is put on high." (Isa. 12:4) How can we do this?

[4] We can take advantage of every opportunity to proclaim Jehovah's name and all that it stands for. Whether formally or informally, from house to house or from store to store, on the street or on the telephone, our preaching activity honors Jehovah. When we find interested ones who listen, we should make definite appointments to call back and teach them more about Jehovah. That means we must keep those appointments without fail and persevere in our efforts to start home Bible studies. Happily, every year hundreds of thousands are coming to know, respect, and sanctify Jehovah's beautiful name.

[5] Our wholehearted participation in the work of sanctifying God's name clearly shows where we stand on the issue Satan raised in Eden. This is the most noble, honorable work we can perform. Let us highly esteem and zealously praise Jehovah's beauteous name!—1 Chron. 29:13.

Secular Education and Your Spiritual Goals

Purpose of schooling?

[1] Obtaining a good fundamental education when you are young can provide the academic skills needed for you to read and write well and to get a general understanding of geography, history, mathematics, and science. In the process, you can learn how to think clearly, analyze facts, solve problems, and generate productive ideas. Such schooling will serve you well throughout your life. How can your secular education relate to your spiritual goals in life and help you to gain "practical wisdom and thinking ability"?—Prov. 3:21, 22.

[2] **Become Useful in God's Service:** While you are in school, pay attention in class and do your homework assignments well. If you master good reading and study habits, you can more easily examine God's Word and keep yourself spiritually strong. (Acts 17:11) Well-rounded knowledge will help you relate to people of various backgrounds, interests, and beliefs as you meet them in the ministry. The education that you acquire in school will be useful as you carry out your Christian responsibilities in God's organization.—Compare 2 Timothy 2:21; 4:11.

[3] **Learn to Support Yourself:** If you apply yourself, you can also learn the why skills needed? to earn a living after graduation. (Compare 1 Timothy 5:8.) Choose your subjects carefully. Instead of focusing on a field that has limited employment opportunities, consider learning a trade or a skill that will enable you to find suitable work anywhere. (Prov. 22:29) Such training will make it possible for you to support yourself should you decide to serve where the need is greater. —Compare Acts 18:1-4.

[4] Getting a good basic education while in school can help you to expand your ministry. Work hard to acquire skills needed to support yourself while you advance in Jehovah's service. Thus your schooling will serve to aid you in reaching your spiritual goals.

[illegible] basic education helps

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

Week Starting August 2

Song 39

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on May field service report for the country and the local congregation. Encourage all publishers to share in the field ministry during August.

17 min: "Highly Esteem Jehovah's Beautiful Name." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Highlight the cited scriptures.—See *Live Forever* book, pages 184-5.

18 min: "Secular Education and Your Spiritual Goals." A father discusses article with his son or daughter. They also review related material from the December 22, 1995, *Awake!,* pages 7-11.

Song 148 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 9

Song 138

8 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

12 min: Pioneers Assist Others—What Progress Has Been Made? Talk and interviews conducted by the service overseer. Review direction provided in the September 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Relate how this was organized locally, and give an update on the progress made by those assisted. Interview one or two pioneers and some of the publishers who benefited from their help. Encourage those next in line to be assisted to take full advantage of this provision.

25 min: "Has the Door to Pioneering Now Opened for You?" Question-and-answer discussion conducted by an elder. In a positive way, show the possibilities that exist for more publishers to pioneer. Interview pioneers who can relate from their own experience how they were able to overcome common obstacles and succeed. Analyze the "Sample Regular Pioneer Schedules," emphasizing how good planning can make the hour requirement attainable. Announce that any who wish to have a pioneer application can obtain one after the meeting.

Song 202 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 16

Song 131

10 min: Local announcements. Only two weekends are left in August, so encourage everyone to participate in the ministry before the month ends. Review "New Special Assembly Day Program."

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Are You Having a Share in Making Disciples? Audience discussion. In view of the great amount of literature being placed, our aim should be to start Bible studies so that we can help people benefit from the publications they receive. Have publishers comment on the problems that hinder them from conducting more studies: (1) It is difficult to find people who are willing to study. (2) Some people who show interest say that they are too busy to study. (3) After a study is started, it is hard to find the person at home to keep the study regular. Also address the feelings that some publishers may have about the Bible study work: (1) 'I don't feel qualified as a teacher.' (2) 'I don't have the time to conduct a weekly study.' (3) 'I hesitate to obligate myself to another person.' (4) 'I'm satisfied to share in the other features of the ministry.' Offer positive suggestions on how to overcome these obstacles in order to share personally in the disciple-making work. Have successful publishers relate the joy that they have experienced in the Bible study work.—See April 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 3-8, 15.

Song 100 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 23

Song 94

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Help Newly Interested Ones to Appreciate the Sanctity of Marriage. Elder leads audience discussion based on *Reasoning* book, pages 248-50. We encounter couples who respond to the Kingdom message but who are slow to make progress because they are living together without the benefit of a legal marriage. Discuss how to help them understand why Christians must uphold honorable marriage. (See January 8, 1992, *Awake!,* pages 26-7.) Give suggestions about what we can tactfully say to help such couples see why they cannot be part of the congregation until their marriage is legally registered.

20 min: "What Will You Say to a Buddhist?" Questions and answers. We often wonder what to say when we find people in the territory who profess a non-Christian religion that features ideas, practices, and rituals that are foreign to us. This article begins a five-part series on this subject. Demonstrate a well-prepared presentation. For more information on Buddhism, see February 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert; *Reasoning* book, page 21; and *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 6.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 30

Song 99

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for August. Congregation Book Study conductors should check with everyone in their group so that all reports can be tallied by September 6.

17 min: We Love Our Brothers. Talk by an elder, including an audience discussion based on December 1, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 15-17, paragraphs 7-11. Emphasize the mutual benefits enjoyed when we get to know our brothers well, share encouragement, and assist one another to endure trials. Suggest how this can be done to a greater extent. Invite audience to relate experiences showing how they were refreshed and strengthened by loving encouragement from others.

18 min: Give a Reason for Your Hope. An elder interviews one or two exemplary teenagers who are in public school. They are continually confronted with situations in which worldly peers want to know why our teenagers choose not to join them in their activities. While taking advantage of such opportunities to explain their Bible-based convictions, our youths need to be firm in their resistance. The group discusses how they might respond if they are offered tobacco or drugs. Review the reasoning presented in the *Young People Ask* book, pages 277-81. Explain how defending their resolve to do what is right serves as a protection and gives a good witness.

Song 129 and concluding prayer.

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Has the Door to Pioneering Now Opened for You?

1 Our 1999 yeartext reminds us that we are still within Jehovah's "day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2) But his day of salvation will soon end. Then his "day of judgment" will begin. (2 Pet. 2:9) While Jehovah continues to extend the opportunity for salvation to mankind, how thrilling it is to see ever-increasing numbers respond!

2 Jehovah's people have risen to the challenge of reaching the responsive ones before it is too late. For many Kingdom publishers, this has meant entering the pioneer service. Has the door to pioneering now opened for you? Why do we ask?

GOAL: 90,000
REGULAR PIONEERS!

3 **Appreciation Expressed:** As announced in the January 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the hour requirement for both regular and auxiliary pioneers has been reduced. To meet the new requirement, regular pioneers need to devote 70 hours to the ministry each month for a total of 840 hours per service year. Auxiliary pioneers will spend 50 hours in the service each month. Here are a few of the many expressions of appreciation that have been received as a result of these adjustments:

> *"What a blessed gift from our heavenly Father!"*
>
> *"No words can convey the emotions of joy, love, and gratitude for this provision!"*
>
> *"It will make meeting our schedules so much easier!"*
>
> *"Our prayer is that many more will now take up the full-time ministry and enjoy the blessings that come from serving Jehovah in a large way."*

4 As we approach the climax of God's day of salvation, it is evident that Jehovah desires his people to give a final, mighty shout of praise. The magnitude and intensity of this message is increased (1) by the steady growth in the number of Kingdom proclaimers and (2) by each one's seeking to increase what he is able to do in Kingdom preaching. Jehovah, the one "who makes it grow," has brought success in both ways by blessing the willing spirit of all who have accepted salvation.—1 Cor. 3:6, 7; Ps. 110:3.

5 **Do Not Miss Its Purpose:** It was with respect to Jehovah's day of salvation that Paul admonished fellow Christians: "Working together with him [Jehovah], we also entreat you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose." We will not "miss its purpose" if we see this as "the especially acceptable time" to work for the salvation of others at every opportunity. (2 Cor. 6:1, 2) Today, Paul's words take on greater urgency. Christians manifesting a heartfelt love for Jehovah count it a privilege to share as fully as possible in the ministry that he has assigned them. Are you now able to share more fully in the ministry as a regular pioneer?

6 **It Is a Reasonable Goal:** In the United States, it is our goal to see 90,000 regular pioneers enrolled by September 1. We believe that this is a reasonable and attainable goal. Why are we so confident? In March 1997 we saw 116,335 brothers and sisters auxiliary pioneer, and in April 1998 nearly 90,000 did so. The majority reported 60 hours—just 10 hours short of the new regular pioneer requirement! Even if only 15,000 of those who have auxiliary pioneered enroll as regular pioneers before the end of this service year, we could start September with 90,000 or more full-time pioneers!

7 **A Schedule Is Needed:** Does 70 hours of field service a month still seem a little out of reach for you? Perhaps thinking in terms of 17 hours a week will help. Using the sample schedules on the next page, try to create a regular pioneer schedule that will fit your personal circumstances. In working it out, talk with experienced pioneers to get their input on how they balance pioneer service with personal and family responsibilities. Ask your circuit overseer how pioneers in the circuit schedule their service activity each week. Then look to Jehovah to bless your plans to pioneer.—Prov. 16:3.

8 **Make It a Family Project:** Have you considered making pioneering a family project? You might sit down as a family and discuss how—with careful planning and good cooperation—one or two members of the family may be able to pioneer. Understandably, some will find that an honest evaluation of their circumstances does not allow for regular pioneering right now. If so, set pioneering as a future goal. But start making plans to work toward a definite date to begin pioneering. Perhaps you can auxiliary pioneer several times during the year to work up to regular pioneer service.

9 The more than 75,000 regular pioneers currently on the list in the United States have varied circumstances. Not all are in the best of health, and the majority have family and financial obligations. Over 26,000 pioneers are past the age of 50, and about 10,000 of them are over the age of 65. Some 27,000 are single, and about 8,000 are 20 years of age or younger. Approximately one fourth of all the pioneers are brothers, many of whom have family and congregational responsibilities. All of these are

"buying out the opportune time" for pioneering, which in many instances has meant living a simpler yet more contented life.—Col. 4:5.

[10] **Do You Need to Simplify?** Simplifying your life can be the key that opens the door to pioneering for you. Is your life like a large house with unnecessary rooms and furnishings, requiring much time, money, and work to care for? If so, adapting to more modest circumstances may allow for pioneering. Can you reduce the amount of time you spend in secular work? Can you buy out time from nonessential activity or show greater balance in the amount of time spent in recreation?

[11] The Bible, at 1 Timothy 6:8, admonishes us: "Having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things." Being content with less is an important factor in doing our utmost in Jehovah's service and makes it easier to give priority to spiritual interests. (Matt. 6:22, 33) On page 104 of the *1998 Yearbook* in the report on Japan, several suggestions are offered as to why there is such a fine pioneer spirit in that land. Consider one: "It is generally true that Japanese homes are quite modest, thus requiring little time for upkeep, and for the most part, lives are traditionally kept simple." Is that not the essence of 1 Timothy 6:8?

[12] Around the globe, God's servants are preaching the good news with ever-increasing intensity before Jehovah's day of salvation comes to an end. Commendably, last year an average of nearly 700,000 shared in some form of pioneer service each month. Can you adjust your life in order to join them? We invite you to carefully and prayerfully examine your circumstances as you answer the question: "Has the door to pioneering now opened for you?"

Sample Regular Pioneer Schedules

Needed: 17 hours a week

One Weekday and the Weekend

Day	Hours
Friday	8
Saturday	6
Sunday	3
Total Hours:	**17**

Two Weekdays and Saturday

Day	Hours
Tuesday	7
Thursday	7
Saturday	3
Total Hours:	**17**

Three Weekdays and Sunday

Day	Hours
Monday	5
Wednesday	5
Friday	5
Sunday	2
Total Hours:	**17**

Two Evenings and the Weekend

Day	Hours
Monday	3
Wednesday	3
Saturday	8
Sunday	3
Total Hours:	**17**

Create Your Own Regular Pioneer Schedule

Day	Hours
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Total Hours:	**17**

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 3 to August 23, 1999. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Parents need not compromise Bible principles to deal reasonably with their children. [*fy* p. 108 par. 14]
2. The theme for the entire Bible is the vindication of Jehovah through the Kingdom ruled by the promised "seed." (Gen. 3:15) [*si* p. 17 par. 30]
3. There is very little archaeological and other external evidence testifying to the accuracy of the events recorded in Exodus. [*si* p. 20 par. 4]
4. Those who live in extreme poverty are not in a position to contribute financially to promote Kingdom interests. [*w*97 9/15 p. 5 par. 7]
5. Paying a due compensation to parents and grandparents is part of our worship to Jehovah. (1 Tim. 5:4) [*w*97 9/1 p. 4 pars. 1-2]
6. The Sabbath observance was originally a sign between Jehovah and all nations. [Weekly Bible reading; see *rs* p. 345 par. 3.]
7. When a child gets old enough to begin making his own decisions, he bears an increased measure of responsibility for his actions, especially with regard to divine law. (Rom. 14:12) [*fy* p. 135 par. 17]
8. Moses wrote the book of Leviticus in the year 151~~3~~2 B.C.E. [*si* p. 25 pars. 3-4]
9. Jesus' words recorded at Luke 21:20, 21 were fulfilled in 66 C.E. when the Roman armies under the command of General ~~Titus~~ retreated from Jerusalem. [*w*97 4/1 p. 5 pars. 3-4]

T 10. The teaching of Epicurus was dangerous for Christians because it was based on his faithless outlook, which is described at 1 Corinthians 15:32. [*w*97 11/1 p. 24 par. 5]

Answer the following questions:

best parts belong to Jeh -

11. What lesson do we learn from the prohibition against eating fat that is stated at Leviticus 3:17? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*84 2/15 p. 29 par. 2.]

Jeh regulates also eats

12. Why has Jehovah permitted Satan the Devil to exist? (Ex. 9:15, 16) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 3/15 p. 10 par. 14.] prove that Jeh is right
13. When a family member faces serious illness, what initial steps should be taken by the family in order to set priorities? (Prov. 15:22) [*fy* p. 122 par. 14]

~~[illegible]~~

14. In what sense was the nation of Israel "a kingdom of priests"? (Ex. 19:6) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 7/1 p. 16 par. 8.] way ruled
15. What is the difference between an eye that is "simple" and one that is "wicked"? (Matt. 6:22, 23) [*w*97 10/1 p. 26 par. 5] not distracted from K.
16. How could David be spoken of as walking "with integrity of heart and with uprightness" when he made mistakes? (1 Ki. 9:4) [*w*97 5/1 p. 5 par. 2] repent
17. What modern-day privileges are foreshadowed by the Israelites' doing "just so" in connection with the tabernacle? (Ex. 39:32) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 12/15 p. 12 par. 9.] FC helping
18. What is indicated by the fact that Jehovah revealed himself as "I shall prove to be what I shall prove to be"? (Ex. 3:14) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 3/1 p. 10 par. 6.] evidence
time shows whose right.

Baba

19. What lesson is taught by the incident involving Nadab and Abihu recorded at Leviticus 10:1, 2? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*84 2/15 p. 29 par. 3.]
humility - not presumptions on Jeh.

20. Under the Mosaic Law, why did childbirth make a woman "unclean"? (Lev. 12:2, 5) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*84 2/15 p. 29 par. 5.] Blood flow - to
Child born in imperfection - to remind

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Although there is no miracle cure for loneliness, a single parent can endure it with strength from Jeh, which is acquired through persistent prayer. (1 Tim. 5:5) [*fy* p. 112 par. 21]

22. A tragedy in one's life may be the result of accident or because of our own ~~fault~~. [*w*97 5/15 p. 22 par. 7]
imperfection

23. The book of Exodus reveals Jehovah as the great ~~God~~ deliverer and ~~Provider~~ Organizer and the ~~Guide~~ fulfiller of his magnificent purposes. [*si* p. 24 par. 26]

24. It is primarily what we are in ~~spirit~~ private, not in ~~flesh~~ public, that reveals what we truly are within. [*w*97 10/15 p. 29 par. 4]

25. If harvest festivals have ~~worship~~ or ~~religious~~ pagan overtones, genuine Christians may avoid displeasing Jehovah by declining to have any ~~participation~~ in such contaminated worship. [*w*97 9/15 p. 9 par. 6]
involvement

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The "four hundred years" of affliction on Abraham's seed commenced when Ishmael mocked Isaac in (1943; 1919; 1913) B.C.E. and ended with the deliverance from Egypt in (1543; 1519; 1513) B.C.E. (Gen. 15:13) [*si* p. 17 par. 31]

27. Whether a family successfully copes with serious illness or not depends to a large extent on the (financial security; attitude; insurance policies) of its members. (Prov. 17:22) [*fy* p. 120 par. 10]

28. The one who says in his heart "there is no Jehovah" is called "senseless" because that one is (morally deficient; uneducated; lacking in ability to reason). (Ps. 14:1) [*w*97 10/1 p. 6 par. 8]

29. When Adam and Eve rebelled, the most important thing they lost was their (perfection; relationship with God; garden home), which was the key to their happiness. [*w*97 10/15 p. 6 par. 2]

30. The book of (Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus) mentions the requirement of holiness more often than any other Bible book. [*si* p. 26 par. 9]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Ex. 5:2; 21:29; Prov. 1:8; Gal. 5:20; Jas. 1:14, 15

31. Anyone claiming to be a Christian who repeatedly and unrepentantly gives in to violent fits of anger, including physical abuse of family members, can be disfellowshipped. [*fy* p. 150 par. 23] Gal 5:20

32. The way we act begins with how we think. [*fy* p. 148 par. 18]

33. Jehovah God humiliates all those who defiantly refuse to recognize his Godship. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 12/15 p. 13 par. 18.]

34. Although the Bible assigns the father the primary responsibility for instructing the children, the mother also has an important role to play. [*fy* p. 133 par. 12]

35. The Law did not allow negligence as a claim for mercy when someone was killed. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 11/15 p. 11 par. 5.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*.

■ In every community at various times during the year, there are secular holidays for which children are excused from school and employees are given time off from work. These are excellent opportunities for the congregation to have an increased share in the field ministry. The elders should plan ahead for these occasions and notify the congregation well in advance of the arrangements that are being made for group witnessing during holiday periods.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2000 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their September literature request. The calendars will be available in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

■ From August 27, 1999, to August 31, 1999, the Society will be taking an inventory of all literature on hand at Brooklyn Bethel. Because of this inventory, no congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup during those days.

■ Adjustments have been made to the telephone numbers for the Society's facilities in Brooklyn and Patterson, New York. The new telephone numbers are as follows: Brooklyn (718) 560-5000 and Patterson (914) 306-1000. The telephone number for Wallkill, New York, (914) 744-6000, remains the same. As a reminder, correspondence with the Society regarding congregation matters should be handled through the local body of elders.

■ An adequate supply of forms for use during the 2000 service year is being sent to each congregation. These forms should not be wasted. They should be used only for their intended purpose.

■ New Publications Available:

A Peaceful New World—Will It Come? (Tract No. 17) —Kazakh
Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? —Russian
Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice? (Tract No. 74) —Russian
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Bengali
How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability —Hindi
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Arabic
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —German, Polish, Russian
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Hindi
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995 —Spanish
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Danish, Dutch, Faeroese, Norwegian, Slovenian, Swedish
What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Kazakh
Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses? (Tract No. 73) —Russian

MAY SERVICE REPORT

	Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**141**	**123.6**	**108.8**	**55.3**	**4.8**
Pios.	**77,801**	**66.1**	**49.0**	**21.8**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**85,848**	**48.8**	**39.7**	**12.0**	**0.7**
Pubs.	**777,778**	**9.5**	**8.3**	**3.3**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**941,568**		Baptized: **2,755**		

New Special Assembly Day Program

The special assembly day program beginning in September 1999 has as its theme: "Searching Into the Deep Things of God." (1 Cor. 2:10) What valuable things will we learn?

In their quest for knowledge, many people are not refreshed by what they find. The Bible invigorates us, as will be shown by the circuit overseer in his part entitled "Searching God's Word Brings Refreshment." The visiting speaker will make the connection between searching into the deep things of God and preaching the good news as he addresses the question "How Do You View Kingdom Preaching?"

How can parents help their children to dig deep into God's Word? Practical suggestions will be provided in the part "Inculcate God's Word in Your Children." Christian youths are influenced in a wholesome way by association with spiritually mature ones in the congregation. Examples of how they are favorably affected will be highlighted in the portion "Youths Who Learn From Older Ones."

Why should we diligently search for hidden spiritual treasure at this time? Jehovah is a Revealer of secrets. The visiting speaker will explain what Jehovah has revealed in ancient and modern times in the talk "Jehovah Progressively Reveals Deep Things." This will strengthen our resolve to continue "searching into the deep things of God."

Plan now to attend. Those who wish to symbolize their dedication to Jehovah by baptism should inform the presiding overseer as soon as possible. Our earnest desire to delve into God's Word will be fortified by what we hear. So do not miss this special day of spiritual instruction!

What Will You Say to a Buddhist?

1 In some lands more than half of those getting baptized are from a Buddhist background. What is attracting these ones to the truth? How can you present the good news to a Buddhist?

2 **Show Genuine Concern:** Many former Buddhists have said that it was not profound reasoning that attracted them to the truth. Rather, they were touched by the genuine personal concern shown to them. An Asian woman living in the United States was so impressed with the friendliness of the sister who called on her that she agreed to study. She could not speak English well, but the sister was patient. When the woman was tired or unable to study, the sister would simply make a friendly visit and arrange for the next session. Eventually the woman, her two sons, and her aged mother got baptized. She returned to the land of her birth and assisted many others to learn the truth. One of her sons now serves at the branch office. What blessings resulted from reflecting Jehovah's 'kindness and love for man'!—Titus 3:4.

3 **Buddhist Thought:** Buddhists generally are tolerant of other ideas, but they do not consider it necessary to adhere to specific dogma. So their individual beliefs vary. A common theme in one branch of Buddhist teaching is that life is full of suffering, but by means of enlightenment, one can stop the continuous cycle of rebirth into unsatisfactory lives. It is said that to be liberated from this cycle, one must achieve Nirvana, a state that cannot be described because it is not a place or an event but, rather, a void in which pain and evil are nonexistent. (See *What Happens to Us When We Die?,* pages 9-10.) What does this tell us? That it would be counterproductive to engage people in debates on Buddhist philosophy. Instead, discuss common problems that are of concern to all.

4 **Emphasize Mutual Interests:** Since Buddhists generally equate life on earth with suffering, the concept of *everlasting* life on earth may strike them as absurd. Still, all of us share the desire to enjoy happy family life, to see suffering eliminated, and to know the meaning of life. Note how such mutual needs can be highlighted.

5 ***You might try this introduction:***

■ "Today we live in a world where many innocent people suffer. What do you believe is needed to bring an end to pain and misery for all? [Allow for response.] There is an ancient promise that is very comforting to me. [Read Revelation 21:4.] Of course, that time has not yet come, but when it arrives, we would like to see it, wouldn't we?" Then offer a publication that explains how suffering will end.

6 ***To an older person, you could say:***

■ "Perhaps you are as concerned as I am about the current flood of degraded ideas and the effect that these are having on our children. Why is there such an increase in immorality among young people? [Allow for response.] Did you know that this was foretold in a book that started to be written long before the founding of the Muslim, Christian, and Hindu religions? [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-3.] Note that these conditions prevail despite continuous learning. [Read verse 7.] This publication helped me to understand the truth that most people never learn. Would you like to read it?" Offer an appropriate book or brochure.

7 Buddhists generally respect the Bible as a sacred writing. So read from it directly. (Heb. 4:12) If the person feels uneasy about the influence of Western culture, mention to him that all of the Bible writers were Asians.

8 **Which Publications Work Best?** Published especially for Buddhists, the tract *Will Suffering Ever End?* is printed in Chinese, Japanese, Sinhalese, and Thai. In addition, many publishers have successfully used the following literature: the books *Mankind's Search for God, The Secret of Family Happiness,* and *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work;* the brochures *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* and *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?;* and, if still available, *Kingdom News* No. 35, *Will All People Ever Love One Another?* Most Buddhists who are now learning the truth study the *Require* brochure first and then the *Knowledge* book.

9 Although Buddhist missionaries are said to have arrived in Athens nearly 400 years before Paul preached there, it is uncertain whether he ever met a person influenced by Buddhist thought. However, we do know how Paul felt about witnessing to people of all sorts. He made himself "the slave to all" so that he "might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:19-23) We can do the same by showing personal interest in people and by emphasizing the hope that we hold in common as we witness to everyone we meet.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/99 Vol. 42, No. 9

Are You Working With a Purpose?

[1] Jehovah is the God of purpose. (Isa. 55:10, 11) We are exhorted to imitate him. (Eph. 5:1) This certainly ought to hold true of the way in which we perform our ministry. So the question is appropriate: "Are you working with a purpose?"

[2] Your preaching from door to door, witnessing informally, and distributing literature is all part of a purposeful ministry. But remember that our commission involves not only preaching but also disciple making. (Matt. 28:19, 20) After sowing seeds of Kingdom truth, we need to return to water them and provide regular care as we look to Jehovah to bring the increase. (1 Cor. 3:6) We need to be conscientious about making return visits and starting Bible studies.

[3] **Expand Your Ministry:** There is always a good feeling when you can look back on what you did in the service and say to yourself: "I accomplished what I set out to do." As recorded at 2 Timothy 4:5, Paul urged: "Fully accomplish your ministry." That includes expanding your efforts to follow up on all the interest found. In your weekly service schedule, plan a definite time to make return visits. Work toward the goal of trying to start Bible studies with those inclined toward righteousness. This should be your purpose when sharing in the ministry.

[4] Ask publishers how they felt when they saw their Bible students get baptized at an assembly. They rejoiced, possibly as much as the ones who got baptized. They had accomplished a grand purpose! One disciple maker expressed it this way: "Making disciples means making more praisers of Jehovah. It means life for those who accept the truth. I just love teaching the truth to others—it's so beautiful! . . . Many of those who have come to love Jehovah have become my very dear friends."

[5] Imagine being able to assist a person to become a dedicated servant of Jehovah! What a cause for joy! Such fruitage results from having worked with a purpose in the ministry.—Col. 4:17.

Parents—Set a Good Example for Your Children

[1] God's Word tells us that "the father [and the mother] of a righteous one will without fail be joyful." (Prov. 23:24, 25) What a blessing for parents who have set a good example for their offspring! A member of a Branch Committee said of his parents: "The truth was their whole life, and I wanted to make it my whole life too." What should children see in their parents?

[2] **Good Manners and Deep Respect:** It is the parents' responsibility to instill wholesome traits in their children. Good manners are learned, not simply by verbal instruction, but by observation and imitation. Therefore, what manners do you display? Do your children hear you say "excuse me," "please," and "thank you"? In the family, do you treat one another with deep respect? Do you pay attention when others talk? Do you listen when your children speak to you? Are these good traits displayed both at the Kingdom Hall and in the privacy of the home?

[3] **Strong Spirituality and Zealous Activity:** A brother who has spent more than 50 years in full-time service recalls: "My mother and father were a wonderful example in their appreciation for meetings and in their zeal for the ministry." How do you demonstrate to your children that you are concerned about maintaining the spirituality of those in your household? Do you consider the daily text together? Do you have a regular family study? Do your children see you reading the Bible and the Society's publications? What do they hear when you pray on behalf of the family? Do you engage in upbuilding spiritual conversation with your children, discussing positive things about the truth and the congregation? Are you eager to attend all the meetings and to share in the field ministry as a family?

[4] Parents, reflect on the example you are setting for your children. Make it an excellent one, and they will treasure it all their lives. A traveling overseer's wife, now in her 70's, said: "I am still benefiting from the good example of my loving Christian parents. And it is my earnest prayer that I will prove my full appreciation for this heritage by using it properly through all the ages to come."

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Week Starting September 6

Song 190

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

17 min: "Are You Working With a Purpose?" Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Include comments on *Our Ministry* book, pages 88-9. Encourage all to be consistent and thorough in their ministry.

18 min: "Parents—Set a Good Example for Your Children." Brief introduction by an elder, followed by a discussion of the article by two brothers who are parents. They express concern about safeguarding their children from the negative traits that they are exposed to at school, by television, and by non-Witness relatives and others. The brothers consider disrespectful attitudes, worldly speech and grooming, and unwholesome entertainment. After reflecting on the need to set a good example, they discuss ways to build up greater enthusiasm for the family study, the congregation meetings, and field service.—See July 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 8-22, and September 22, 1991, *Awake!,* pages 8-9.

Song 101 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 13

Song 171

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: How Did We Do Last Year? A talk by the service overseer. Review highlights from the congregation report for the 1999 service year. Give commendation for good things accomplished. Point out areas where improvement may be needed. Focus on how the congregation has done in meeting attendance and in conducting Bible studies. Outline practical goals for the coming year.

20 min: "What Will You Say to a Hindu?" Questions and answers. Emphasize the advantage of establishing common ground with a person, and point out where we are likely to agree with a Hindu. Show how the suggested presentations can be adjusted to witness to people of any religious background. Demonstrate a well-prepared presentation of witnessing to a Hindu. For more information on Hinduism, see February 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert; *Reasoning* book, page 22; and *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 5.

Song 140 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 20

Song 193

12 min: Local announcements and field service experiences.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: Make Good Use of the *Creator* Book. Talk and demonstrations. The April 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry* explained that the *Creator* book may be offered any time we meet people who (1) do not believe in God or (2) believe in God but have no real concept of who he is or what his qualities and purposes are. The thought-provoking questions and comments on the back cover can be used to stimulate interest in reading the book. Or page 152 can be used to good advantage. A publisher might ask: "Where can we find the very best advice on how to solve our most perplexing problems?" He can show the person how noted authorities have praised Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, ask him to choose one of the seven highlighted points that interests him most, and then read a few of the cited verses. Demonstrate both of these suggestions for offering the *Creator* book, mentioning the donation arrangement in each presentation. Encourage all to carry the book in the field service, being ready to offer it whenever appropriate.

Song 175 and concluding prayer.

12/9:1

Week Starting September 27

Song 141

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Encourage all to make plans for a full share in magazine distribution during October. Review some of the suggestions that appeared in the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8, on how to prepare presentations. Using the current magazines, mention some good talking points and demonstrate one or two brief presentations. Show how to mention the donation arrangement to the householder.

15 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

15 min: "True Worship Is Expanding in Eastern Europe." Elder conducts question-and-answer session. Cite experiences or evidence of increase in countries represented, as reported in recent *Yearbooks.*

Song 87 and concluding prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation.*
- When in the ministry, you may meet a person who is deaf. If there is a sign language group or congregation functioning in your area, you should follow the direction provided in the Society's October 15, 1998, letter to all congregations in the United States. It explains: "The Please Follow Up form will be used to make a note of people, whether in your congregation's territory or not, who speak another language, *including sign language.* Generally, it should be used for this purpose even if the individual does not show interest in the Kingdom message. . . . After filling out the Please Follow Up form, it should be given directly to the congregation secretary or placed in the box for field service reports at the Kingdom Hall." With each publisher being alert to cooperate in this way, sign language congregations will be able to compile a list of deaf people located in their area.

(*Continued on p. 7, col. 1*)

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**134**	**121.3**	**101.2**	**53.6**	**4.7**
Pios.	**76,575**	**61.6**	**44.1**	**20.6**	**1.6**
Aux. Pios.	**33,440**	**49.5**	**37.0**	**12.2**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**800,181**	**9.2**	**8.0**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**910,330**		Baptized: **4,068**		

The combined total of 110,015 regular and auxiliary pioneers is the highest number ever reported for the month of June!

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True Worship Is Expanding in Eastern Europe

Săcele, Romania

Maardu, Estonia

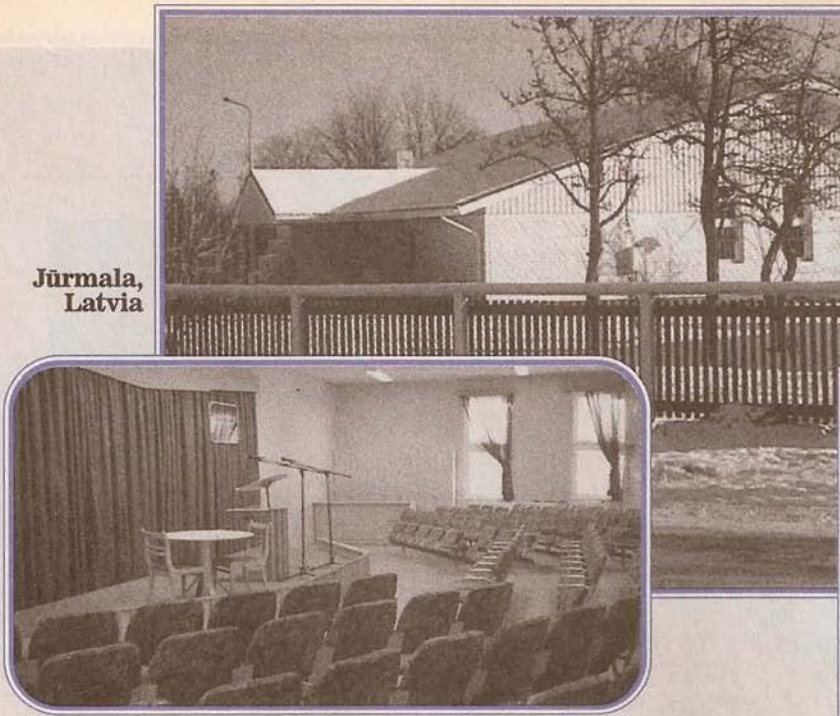
Sevnica, Slovenia

Tiszavasvári, Hungary

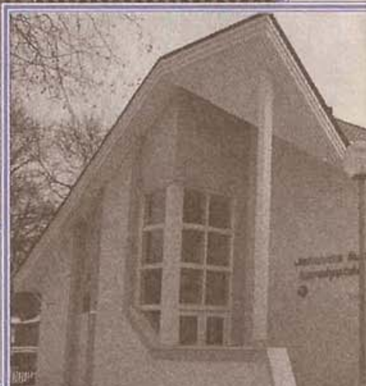
[1] First-century Christians were zealous Kingdom preachers. They rejoiced when the congregations 'increased in number from day to day.' (Acts 16:5) Their bold preaching took true worship into Asia, Africa, and Europe, resulting in a rich harvest of believers.

[2] In this time of the end, true worship continues to expand, particularly in the lands of Eastern Europe. In countries where we were under government restrictions until the early 1990's, we are now experiencing outstanding increases. The *1999 Yearbook* reveals that two of such countries, **Russia** and **Ukraine**, each reported over 100,000 publishers sharing in the public ministry. In the 15 territories of the former Soviet Union, since 1991 over 220,000 persons have dedicated themselves to Jehovah and been baptized! This rapid growth has made it necessary to construct many new Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls as well as to expand a number of branch facilities.

[3] As announced in *Our Kingdom Ministry* of March 1997, a portion of the Society Kingdom Hall Fund is now being used to provide loans to congregations in lands where a very urgent need exists for more Kingdom Halls but where there are limited resources and severe economic problems. Between March 1996 and October 1998, the Society gave approval to 359 Kingdom Hall loan requests from branch offices overseeing 11 Eastern



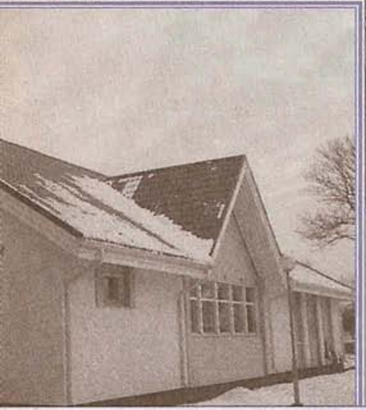
Jūrmala, Latvia



Taurage, Lithuania

Tallinn, Estonia

European lands. Contributed funds are being used to purchase land and materials for the construction of new Kingdom Halls and to assist congregations in remodeling existing facilities. The pictures shown here give us an idea of how contributions to the Society Kingdom Hall Fund in the United States and in other countries have benefited our brothers in Eastern Europe.

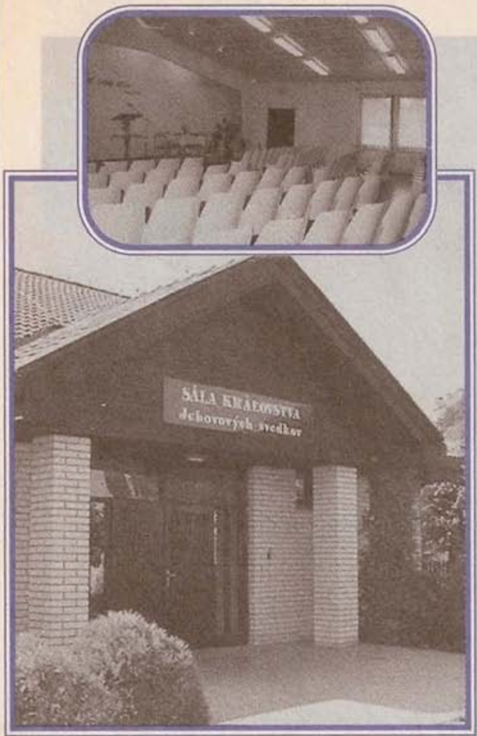


Prievidza,
Slovakia

Mátészalka, Hungary

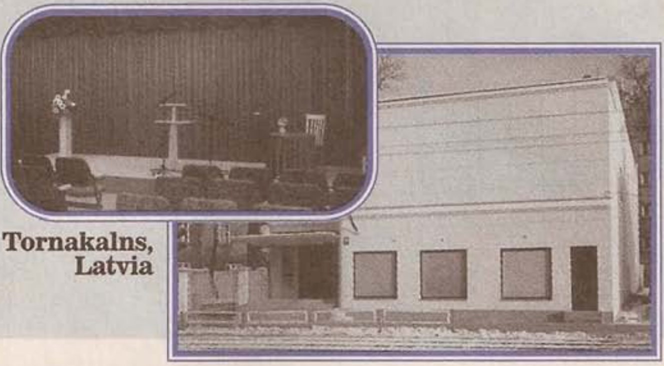
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

4 During 1998, **Bulgaria** experienced a 12-percent increase, and the brothers were thrilled when their first Kingdom Hall was dedicated in April of that year. **Croatia** enjoyed a 4-percent increase, and at present the brothers there are constructing more Kingdom Halls, to advance true worship. In **Hungary** some 80 Kingdom Halls are being used by 144 congregations. This means that of the 235



Vranov nad Topľou, Slovakia

Ruma, Yugoslavia



Tornakalns, Latvia

congregations in that country, 61 percent have their own place of worship. In **Macedonia** the Kingdom Hall construction program has completed two new halls, and more are under way. In the summer of 1999, a double Kingdom Hall was completed in the capital city of Skopje. This hall has the capacity to serve at least six congregations.

5 Last year in **Russia,** on an average, over 260 persons were baptized each week! Following the model used in other countries, the Russia branch has now organized 12 Regional Building Committees throughout their vast territory, to support future Kingdom Hall construction projects. In the northern part of St. Petersburg, construction is under way on that country's first Assembly Hall, which will seat 1,600. The facility will also include five Kingdom Halls with 200 seats each. To serve the spiritual needs of our brothers and many interested ones in **Ukraine,** 84 Kingdom Halls have been completed and 80 are under construction.

6 Does not this increase in Eastern Europe bring joy to our hearts? No matter where we live, the expansion of true worship reminds us that God is not partial and that his patience will mean salvation for "a great crowd." (Rev. 7:9; 2 Pet. 3:9) What a privilege is ours to have a small share in contributing toward the spiritual growth of others, even those in faraway lands! Proverbs 28:27 assures us that "he that is giving to the one of little means will have no want." Our willingness to help cover these construction costs results in "an equalizing" of material things, enabling all to experience the happiness that comes from giving and the joy that results from seeing true worship expand worldwide.—2 Cor. 8:14, 15; Acts 20:35.

Announcements (*Continued*)

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower,* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit the Society's facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The Society will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY. Before your visit, please review the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

■ Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!,* including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.

■ The Society does not fill individual publisher's requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ The 1998 "God's Way of Life" District and International Conventions were truly a blessing for all in attendance. Among those present were 2,764 missionaries and international servants who were able to visit their home countries with the aid of generous donations from the congregations. Support of this arrangement is very much appreciated. With the conclusion of these conventions, the remaining funds donated for this purpose will be used to support the worldwide preaching work.

■ New Publications Available:

A Book for All People —Danish
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Luvale

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Noah—He Walked With God —Greek, Thai
The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —Albanian
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —Albanian, Arabic
The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Albanian

■ Beginning with the September 1, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Kazakh as a monthly edition.

QUESTION BOX

■ Are you prepared for an emergency?

In the modern world, "time and unforeseen occurrence" often combine to create a medical emergency, including pressure to take a blood transfusion. (Eccl. 9:11) So that we can prepare for such an eventuality, Jehovah has provided help in many ways through his organization, but he expects us to do our part. Below is a checklist to help you.

- Carry the current Advance Medical Directive/Release card at all times.
- See that your children carry the current Identity Card.
- Review the September 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, rehearsing how to reason with doctors and judges regarding treatment for your child.
- Review articles on blood fractions and alternatives to blood. (Recommended: *The Watchtower,* October 1, 1994, page 31; June 1, 1990, pages 30-1; March 1, 1989, pages 30-1; *Awake!,* December 8, 1994, pages 23-7; August 8, 1993, pages 22-5; November 22, 1991, page 10; and *Our Kingdom Ministry,* September 1992 and November 1990 inserts. Keep them in a folder for ready access.)
- Decide conscientiously if you can allow use of machines that circulate blood outside the body or if you can accept products containing blood fractions. (If you complete a health-care durable power of attorney, or proxy, form—which is advisable—you will see that provision is made on the form for you to declare your own informed choice of treatment.)
- Before going to the hospital, if at all possible, let the elders know so that they can support you and contact the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) if necessary. In the case of a young child, ask the elders to notify the HLC early.

Make Clear Your Refusal of Blood: Reports show that some brothers and sisters wait until the last minute to tell the treating doctors that they do not want blood. This is unfair to medical personnel and puts you at risk of being transfused. If the doctors know your convictions and your wishes are backed up by signed documents that state your specific directions, it helps them to proceed without delay and often gives them additional options for nonblood medical treatment.

Since a medical emergency can occur at any time, usually when you least expect it, take steps now to safeguard yourself and your children from a blood transfusion.—Prov. 16:20; 22:3.

What Will You Say to a Hindu?

[1] As you may know, there are many Hindus living in various lands, including this country. This means that sooner or later you may meet a Hindu in the course of your ministry. When you do, how will you handle the call?

[2] **Remember These Points:** Missionaries who have successfully witnessed to Hindus say that it is not necessary to make a deep study of Hinduism in order to give an effective witness. A simple, tactful presentation of the truth often brings a positive response. Ask to speak to the head of the household first. If his response is favorable, it will be easier to witness to other family members. At the outset avoid suggesting that you are bringing a message that is superior to what the householder believes or that you want to discuss the *only* true God or the *oldest* sacred writings. Since many Hindus consider the Bible to be a Western book, you can break down prejudice by explaining that it does not promote colonialism or the superiority of one race over another.

[3] **Use the Right Tools:** Two brochures have been prepared specifically with Hindus in mind. *Why Should We Worship God in Love and Truth?* is printed in Gujarati and Punjabi. *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?* is printed in 11 additional Indian languages. Both are available in English. The brochures *"Look! I Am Making All Things New"* and *Does God Really Care About Us?* have also proved effective when witnessing to those of Hindu background. The *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book can be used successfully to conduct Bible studies.

[4] **Establish Common Ground:** It is not difficult to find common ground with Hindus. They believe that we are living in a time when wickedness is at its peak and that God will rid the world of its problems through a great catastrophe to be followed by an era of truth. You can see how easily these beliefs can be related to the Bible's teachings about the last days, the great tribulation, and the coming new world. Since most Hindus view life as a series of problems for which there are no solutions, they are interested in the topics of family life, crime and safety, and what happens at death. Here are two sample presentations that you might try.

[5] ***This may appeal to a family man:***

■ "I am visiting people who are concerned about the state of family life in many lands today. What do you think will help keep the family together? [Allow for response.] Some people know what the Hindu scriptures say about the family, but they have never had the opportunity to compare this with what the Bible has to say on the subject. I would like to share with you this thought at Colossians 3:12-14." After reading the scripture, show the householder chapter 15 of the *Knowledge* book and say: "I would be pleased to spend a little time reading this chapter with you."

[6] ***A young person might respond to this:***

■ "No doubt you believe in God. What do you think God's purpose is for us?" Allow for a response. Then read Genesis 1:28, and say: "In many places the earth is overpopulated and plagued with problems. Do you think the Creator would be willing to help us solve our problems?" After hearing the response, turn to an appropriate publication.

[7] **Enjoy Positive Results:** A 22-year-old Hindu man approached a sister who was witnessing in a market and asked for a Bible study. He explained to her that eight years earlier he had overheard a Bible discussion between his mother and her. Although he had been impressed by the Bible's practical answers to mankind's problems, his mother was not interested and he had felt that he was too young to pursue the truth on his own. Now as an adult, he wanted to learn more. The young man wasted no time. In only 23 days, he completed his study of the *Knowledge* book, and just four months after he had met the sister at the market, he asked to be baptized!

[8] A brother started a study with a Hindu man whom he met on a train. The man was experiencing difficulties in his marriage. He also had a drinking problem. The man agreed to have the Witness call on him and share the Bible's advice on family life. The Bible's moral teachings appealed to him, and he agreed to a Bible study. He and his family began attending meetings together. Later they shared the truth with friends and relatives. So far, six of these people have accepted the truth!

[9] God's will is that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) That includes men and women who profess a non-Christian religion, such as Hinduism. If there are Hindus in your territory, why not visit them soon and use some of the suggestions presented in this article?

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/99 Vol. 42, No. 10

God's Prophetic Word Will All Come True!

¹ Jehovah's Witnesses have always been interested in Bible prophecy. So we were thrilled to learn that the theme of this year's district convention would be "God's Prophetic Word." We were eager to know what Jehovah had in store for us as "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45) He did not disappoint us.

² **Convention Highlights:** Friday's keynote address, "Pay Attention to God's Prophetic Word," included an enlightening discussion of the transfiguration account. (Matt. 17:1-9) It stressed that right now we are on the threshold of the best of times because we are very, very deep into the time of the end, with the new system just ahead! An important way in which we need to pay attention to God's Word is by reading it regularly. The symposium "Take Delight in Reading God's Word" provided practical suggestions for making our Bible reading more profitable and enjoyable.

³ On Saturday afternoon we reviewed reasons why we should be convinced that we are living in the last days. Can you remember all of these? Sunday morning, Habakkuk's prophecy came alive as we learned that our day closely resembles his day and that momentous events are soon to come when Jehovah destroys the wicked and saves the righteous. Did you get the point of the Bible drama about Jacob and Esau? We must actively pursue blessings from Jehovah, resisting the spirit of apathy and indifference.

⁴ **An Intriguing New Book:** How excited we were to receive the new book, *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* No doubt you are already reading this engrossing publication. The speaker who released it stated: "Except for a few details, all the prophecies in the book of Daniel have been fulfilled." Does that not underscore the urgency of our times?

⁵ The convention program has greatly strengthened our conviction that all of God's promises that are yet unfulfilled will come true. We are stimulated to keep on declaring to others God's prophetic word!

How to Get More Joy From Meetings

¹ Meetings are vital to our spiritual well-being. The joy that we derive from them is directly related to what we do before, during, and after meetings. How can we help ourselves and others to keep the joy in attending meetings at a high level?

² **Before Meetings:** Preparation has a direct bearing on the enjoyment we get from meetings. When we are well prepared, we are more inclined to pay attention and to participate. Additionally, any meeting assignment that we receive should be prepared well, with the objectives of conveying the information accurately according to instructions and of holding the interest of the audience. We should rehearse thoroughly. When we contribute to lively and upbuilding meetings that benefit everyone, our personal progress becomes evident and we have greater joy.—1 Tim. 4:15, 16.

³ **During Meetings:** Commenting at meetings can help us enjoy them more. Parts that call for audience participation should be viewed as personal assignments for everyone in the congregation. Comments that are concise and to the point usually achieve the most good. Briefly relating upbuilding experiences can be very encouraging and invigorating, and we should be alert to include these whenever the program calls for them. (Prov. 15:23; Acts 15:3) When presenting a part on the meeting, we should speak with enthusiasm and conviction, making it interesting, realistic, and practical.

⁴ **After Meetings:** Sharing with others a kind word, a friendly greeting, and a few key points that were considered at meetings will benefit us all. Expressing our joy at seeing the young, the old, and the new ones participate deepens the love of the brotherhood. Instead of speaking negatively of some who may miss meetings, we should share with them our joy from attending, thereby encouraging them to attend.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁵ Let us not deprive ourselves of this essential provision for having an interchange of encouragement. (Rom. 1:11, 12) By conscientiously contributing every earnest effort, we can all maintain joy in attending Christian meetings.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Week Starting October 4

Song 147

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

17 min: "God's Prophetic Word Will All Come True!" Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Point out a few details from the new book that highlight the significance of our times.

18 min: Be Magazine Conscious! State the total number of magazines placed by the congregation last month. How does this compare with the number received from the Society? If there is a large difference, what needs to be done? Invite the audience to comment on the following: (1) Each publisher should order an adequate but appropriate supply. (2) View every Saturday as Magazine Day. (3) Arrange your personal service schedule to include some magazine activity every month. (4) Plan to do more informal witnessing using magazines to start conversations. (5) Take specialized articles to business and professional people who are most likely to be interested in them. (6) Keep an accurate record of placements, and build up a magazine route, returning regularly with the latest issues. (7) Make good use of any older copies of the magazines so that none accumulate. Display the current magazines, and point out articles that are likely to stir interest. Have an adult and a youngster each demonstrate a brief magazine presentation.—See the September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

Song 105 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 11

Song 194

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "How to Get More Joy From Meetings." Questions and answers. Cite specific examples of how we can show consideration and be encouraging to one another at the meetings. Invite audience to relate examples from their own experiences.

Song 152 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 18

Song 196

10 min: Local announcements and field service experiences.

13 min: "Are You Moving?" An encouraging talk by the secretary. When publishers find it necessary to move to another congregation, it is important that they get well established in their new surroundings so as to avoid any spiritual setbacks. Stress the need to let the elders know about such plans and to request their assistance in contacting the new congregation.

22 min: "What Will You Say to a Jewish Person?" Questions and answers. Explain the differences between Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative Judaism. (See *Mankind's Search for God,* pages 226-7.) Point out areas where we are likely to establish common ground with a Jewish person. Demonstrate a well-prepared presentation. For more information on Judaism, see February 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert; *Reasoning* book, pages 22-3; and *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 9.

Song 142 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 25

Song 179

15 min: Local announcements. Help all to prepare to offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book during November. Explain how to put together a presentation that focuses on the question, "Does God answer prayers?" Use points from lesson 7 in the brochure or chapter 16, paragraphs 12-14, in the book. Demonstrate a simple presentation that incorporates one scripture.

15 min: Finding Answers to Bible Questions. A ministerial servant is approached by a publisher who has encountered an interested person with a Bible question. Rather than giving the answer, the ministerial servant explains how to find it. First, he reviews the suggestions found in the *School Guidebook,* study 7, paragraphs 8-9. Then, together they research a question commonly raised in the local territory. They look up specific references that deal with the subject and find convincing points that clarify the underlying reason for the Bible's answer. Encourage the audience to do this kind of rewarding study to research Bible questions.

15 min: Goals We Might Set. Talk and audience discussion. Review the practical goals outlined in the box on page 11 of the March 15, 1997, *Watchtower.* Include encouragement to share in auxiliary or regular pioneer service. Explain how achieving these goals can personally benefit us. Invite audience to relate some of the joys experienced when they were able to reach certain theocratic goals.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation.* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*
- The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic

(*Continued on p. 7, col. 1*)

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2000

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2000 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *The Watchtower* [*w*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], *Insight on the Scriptures* Volume 2 [*it*-2], and "Bible Topics for Discussion" as found in the *New World Translation* [*td*] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and a brief welcome. There is no need to give a preview of what is on the program. As the school overseer introduces each part, he will mention the subject to be developed. Proceed as follows:

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* When based on *The Watchtower*, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the *"All Scripture"* book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute talk, followed by a 3- to 5-minute oral review using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit*. Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. No theme is necessary. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. This will apply in the main school as well as in the auxiliary groups. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the students to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, when the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on "Bible Topics for Discussion" as found in the *New World Translation*. The setting may be an informal witness, a return visit, or a home Bible study, and the participants may be either seated or standing. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the assigned theme and helps the householder to reason on the scriptures. The student assigned this part should know how to read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. Not the setting but the effective use of the Bible should be given prime consideration.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The subject for this assignment will be based on a Bible character or on "Bible Topics for Discussion" as found in the *New World Translation*. When this assignment is based on a Bible character, source material can be found under the Bible character's name in *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 2. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the Bible character—the events of his life, as well as his personality, traits, and attitude. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of considering a Bible character is to show what can be learned from his example. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; unfaithful acts as well as undesirable traits stand as strong warnings to turn Christians away from an improper course. When this part is based on "Bible Topics for Discussion," the assigned theme should be used, and the student should endeavor to make practical application of the scriptures. A brother or a sister may be given Assignment No. 4. When assigned to a brother, it should always be a talk. When assigned to a sister, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. Additionally, whenever the theme for Assignment No. 4 is preceded by #, it should preferably be assigned to a brother.

*SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLE-READING SCHEDULE: This is set forth in brackets after the song number for each week. By following this schedule, reading about ten pages a week, the entire Bible can be read in three years. No parts on the school program or the written review are based on the supplemental reading schedule.

NOTE: For additional information and instruction regarding counsel, timing, written reviews, and the preparation of assignments, please see page 3 of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 3 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 4-6

Song No. 9 [*Jeremiah 49-52]

No. 1: Appreciate the Blessings of Jehovah (*w*98 1/1 pp. 22-4)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 6:4-19
No. 3: *td* 1A Why God Does Not Approve of Ancestor Worship
No. 4: Simon (No. 8)—Theme: #Serve God With a Pure Motive

Jan. 10 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 7-10

Song No. 49 [*Lamentations 1-5]

No. 1: Exalt the True God (*w*98 1/1 pp. 30-1)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 8:1-18
No. 3: *td* 1B Humans May Be Honored, but Only God Worshiped
No. 4: Sisera (No. 1)—Theme: The Victory Belongs to Jehovah

Jan. 17 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 11-14

Song No. 132 [*Ezekiel 1-9]

No. 1: Why Plan Ahead for Loved Ones (*w*98 1/15 pp. 19-22)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 11:1-12
No. 3: *td* 2A Armageddon—The War to End Wickedness
No. 4: Solomon—Theme: #Guard Your Heart

Jan. 24 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 15-19

Song No. 162 [*Ezekiel 10-16]

No. 1: The Transforming and Uniting Power of the Truth (*w*98 1/15 pp. 29-31)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 19:11-21
No. 3: *td* 2B Why Armageddon Is an Act of Love by God
No. 4: Sosthenes—Theme: Preach to All Sorts of Men

Jan. 31 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 20-23

Song No. 13 [*Ezekiel 17-21]

No. 1: The Scriptural View of Praise and Flattery (*w*98 2/1 pp. 29-31)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 20:10-20
No. 3: *td* 3A Baptism—A Christian Requirement
No. 4: Stephanas—Theme: #Be Solid in the Truth

Feb. 7 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 24-27

Song No. 222 [*Ezekiel 22-27]

No. 1: The Basis for True Optimism (*w*98 2/1 pp. 4-6)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 25:5-16
No. 3: *td* 3B Baptism Does Not Wash Sins Away
No. 4: Stephen—Theme: #Show That You Are Full of Spirit and Wisdom

Feb. 14 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-30

Song No. 180 [*Ezekiel 28-33]

No. 1: Cultivate the Spirit of Gratitude (*w*98 2/15 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
No. 3: *td* 4A The Bible Is the Inspired Word of God
No. 4: Susanna—Theme: Use Your Possessions to Help One Another

Feb. 21 Bible reading: Deuteronomy 31-34

Song No. 46 [*Ezekiel 34-39]

No. 1: Deuteronomy—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 40-1 pars. 30-4)
No. 2: Deuteronomy 32:35-43
No. 3: *td* 4B The Bible—A Practical Guide for Our Day
No. 4: Syntyche—Theme: Continue to Live Peaceably With One Another

Feb. 28 Bible reading: Joshua 1-5

Song No. 40 [*Ezekiel 40-45]

No. 1: Introduction to Joshua (*si* p. 42 pars. 1-5)
No. 2: Joshua 2:8-16
No. 3: *td* 4C The Bible—A Book for All People
No. 4: Tamar (No. 1)—Theme: Do Not Rush to Judgment

Mar. 6 Bible reading: Joshua 6-9

Song No. 164 [*Ezekiel 46-Daniel 2]

No. 1: Parents—Safeguard Your Children! (*w*98 2/15 pp. 8-11)
No. 2: Joshua 7:1, 10-19
No. 3: *td* 5A Blood Transfusions Violate the Sacredness of Blood
No. 4: Terah (No. 1)—Theme: Is the Religion of One's Parents Always Right?

Mar. 13 Bible reading: Joshua 10-13

Song No. 138 [*Daniel 3-7]

No. 1: What the Bible Says About Charisma (*w*98 2/15 pp. 23-7)
No. 2: Joshua 11:6-15
No. 3: *td* 5B Is One's Life to Be Saved at All Costs?
No. 4: Teresh—Theme: The Price of Disloyalty

Mar. 20 Bible reading: Joshua 14-17

Song No. 10 [*Daniel 8-Hosea 2]

No. 1: Faithful Men "With Feelings Like Ours" (*w*98 3/1 pp. 26-9)
No. 2: Joshua 15:1-12
No. 3: *td* 6A When Did the Gentile Times End?
No. 4: Thomas—Theme: #Why We Should Think Before We Speak

Mar. 27 Bible reading: Joshua 18-20

Song No. 105 [*Hosea 3-14]

No. 1: Reliving Jesus' Last Days on Earth (*w*98 3/15 pp. 3-9)
No. 2: Joshua 18:1-10
No. 3: *td* 7A What Is the Christian Church?
No. 4: Tiberius—Theme: Vices Can Make a Person Despicable

Apr. 3 Bible reading: Joshua 21-24

Song No. 144 [*Joel 1-Amos 7]

No. 1: Joshua—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 45-6 pars. 21-4)
No. 2: Joshua 21:43-22:8
No. 3: *td* 7B Is Peter the "Rock-Mass"?
No. 4: Timothy—Theme: #Faith Without Hypocrisy Honors God

Apr. 10 Bible reading: Judges 1-4

Song No. 43 [*Amos 8-Micah 5]

No. 1: Introduction to Judges (*si* pp. 46-7 pars. 1-7)
No. 2: Judges 3:1-11
No. 3: *td* 8A Proved Science Supports Bible's Creation Account
No. 4: Titus—Theme: #Serve the Brothers Wholeheartedly

Apr. 17 Bible reading: Judges 5-7

Song No. 193 [*Micah 6-Zephaniah 1]

No. 1: Learn From Jesus' Instructions to the 70 (*w*98 3/1 pp. 30-1)
No. 2: Judges 5:24-31
No. 3: *td* 8B Was Each Creative Day a 24-Hour Period?
No. 4: Tobiah (No. 2)—Theme: God's Enemies Will Not Succeed

Apr. 24 Written Review. Complete Deuteronomy 4–Judges 7

Song No. 91 [*Zephaniah 2-Zechariah 7]

May 1 Bible reading: Judges 8-10

Song No. 38 [*Zechariah 8–Malachi 4]

No. 1: Respect the Personal Dignity of Others (*w*98 4/1 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: Judges 9:7-21

No. 3: *td* 9A Did Jesus Die on a Cross?

No. 4: Trophimus—Theme: #Give Support to Those Taking the Lead

May 8 Bible reading: Judges 11-14

Song No. 82 [*Matthew 1-8]

No. 1: Barnabas, the "Son of Comfort" (*w*98 4/15 pp. 20-3)

No. 2: Judges 13:2-10, 24

No. 3: *td* 9B Should Christians Worship the Cross?

No. 4: Tryphaena—Theme: Appreciate Women Who Work Hard in the Lord

May 15 Bible reading: Judges 15-18

Song No. 26 [*Matthew 9-14]

No. 1: World Security Without Armies (*w*98 4/15 pp. 28-30)

No. 2: Judges 17:1-13

No. 3: *td* 10A What Is the Cause of Death?

No. 4: Tychicus—Theme: #Be a Faithful and Trusted Christian

May 22 Bible reading: Judges 19-21

Song No. 42 [*Matthew 15-21]

No. 1: Judges—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 50 pars. 26-8)

No. 2: Judges 19:11-21

No. 3: *td* 10B Can the Dead Harm You?

No. 4: Uriah (No. 1)—Theme: Be Wholly Devoted in Your Service to God

May 29 Bible reading: Ruth 1-4

Song No. 120 [*Matthew 22-26]

No. 1: Introduction to Ruth and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 51-3 pars. 1-3, 9-10)

No. 2: Ruth 3:1-13

No. 3: *td* 10C Can Humans Speak With Their Dead Relatives?

No. 4: Urijah (No. 2)—Theme: Fear the True God, Not Man

June 5 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 1-3

Song No. 191 [*Matthew 27–Mark 4]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Samuel (*si* pp. 53-4 pars. 1-6)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

No. 3: *td* 11A Is the Devil a Real Person?

No. 4: Uzzah (No. 2)—Theme: #Good Intentions Do Not Excuse Disobedience

June 12 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 4-7

Song No. 85 [*Mark 5-9]

No. 1: Who Is Jehovah? (*w*98 5/1 pp. 5-7)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 4:9-18

No. 3: *td* 11B The Devil—The Invisible Ruler of the World

No. 4: Uzziah (No. 3)—Theme: #Humbly Respect Theocratic Order

June 19 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 8-11

Song No. 160 [*Mark 10-14]

No. 1: Integrity Is Rewarded (*w*98 5/1 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 8:4-20

No. 3: *td* 11C What the Bible Says About Fallen Angels

No. 4: Vashti—Theme: Be Modest and Walk With God

June 26 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 12-14

Song No. 172 [*Mark 15–Luke 3]

No. 1: Can Riches Make You Happy? (*w*98 5/15 pp. 4-6)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 14:1-14

No. 3: *td* 12A The Earth—Created to Be a Paradise

No. 4: Zacchaeus—Theme: #Avoid the Snare of Greed

July 3 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 15-17

Song No. 8 [*Luke 4-8]

No. 1: Eunice and Lois—Exemplary Educators (*w*98 5/15 pp. 7-9)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 16:4-13

No. 3: *td* 12B Life on Earth Will Never End

No. 4: Zadok (No. 1)—Theme: #Be a Loyal Servant

July 10 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 18-20

Song No. 156 [*Luke 9-12]

No. 1: Reach the Heart With Persuasion (*w*98 5/15 pp. 21-3)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 19:1-13

No. 3: *td* 13A Can You Recognize False Prophets?

No. 4: Zebah—Theme: Opposers of God's People Will Be Brought to Justice

July 17 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 21-24

Song No. 33 [*Luke 13-19]

No. 1: Shoulder Your Family Responsibility (*w*98 6/1 pp. 20-3)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 24:2-15

No. 3: *td* 14A How Important Is Spiritual Healing?

No. 4: Zechariah (No. 12)—Theme: Jehovah Will Not Forget His Faithful Servants

July 24 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 25-27

Song No. 60 [*Luke 20-24]

No. 1: True Justice—When and How? (*w*98 6/15 pp. 26-9)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 25:23-33

No. 3: *td* 14B God's Kingdom—The Means for Bringing Permanent Physical Cures

No. 4: Zechariah (No. 20)—Theme: #Encourage One Another in God's Work

July 31 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 28-31

Song No. 170 [*John 1-6]

No. 1: 1 Samuel—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 57-8 pars. 27-35)

No. 2: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

No. 3: *td* 14C Modern-Day Faith Healing Is Not From God

No. 4: Zechariah (No. 31)—Theme: Believe All That God Says

Aug. 7 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 1-4

Song No. 22 [*John 7-11]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Samuel (*si* p. 59 pars. 1-5)

No. 2: 2 Samuel 2:1-11

No. 3: *td* 14D Is Speaking in Tongues Sure Proof of God's Favor?

No. 4: Zedekiah (No. 1)—Theme: Beware of False Prophets

Aug. 14 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 5-8

Song No. 174 [*John 12-18]

No. 1: "Exert Yourselves Vigorously" (*w*98 6/15 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: 2 Samuel 7:4-16

No. 3: *td* 15A Who Goes to Heaven?

No. 4: Zedekiah (No. 4)—Theme: #Always Obey Jehovah's Commandments

Aug. 21 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 9-12

Song No. 107 [*John 19–Acts 4]

No. 1: Be a Good Neighbor (*w*98 7/1 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: 2 Samuel 11:2-15

No. 3: *td* 16A Hell Is Not a Place of Torment

No. 4: Zerubbabel—Theme: #Face Opposition With Courage

Aug. 28 Written Review. Complete Judges 8–2 Samuel 12

Song No. 177 [*Acts 5-10]

Sept. 4 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 13-15

Song No. 183 [*Acts 11-16]

No. 1: Give Your Children a Good Start in Life (*w*98 7/15 pp. 4-6)
No. 2: 2 Samuel 13:20-33
No. 3: *td* 16B Fire Is a Symbol of Annihilation
No. 4: Ziba—Theme: Trickery and Slander Call Into Question Motive for Good Works

Sept. 11 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 16-18

Song No. 129 [*Acts 17-22]

No. 1: A Christian View of Funeral Customs (*w*98 7/15 pp. 20-4)
No. 2: 2 Samuel 16:5-14
No. 3: *td* 16C The Rich Man and Lazarus Account Does Not Prove Eternal Torment
No. 4: Zimri (No. 2)—Theme: #Jehovah Does Not Tolerate Immorality

Sept. 18 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 19-21

Song No. 19 [*Acts 23–Romans 1]

No. 1: Can You Trust Your Conscience? (*w*98 9/1 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: 2 Samuel 20:1, 2, 14-22
No. 3: *td* 17A The Christian View of Celebrations
No. 4: Zimri (No. 3)—Theme: Unbridled Ambition Can Have Tragic Results

Sept. 25 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 22-24

Song No. 98 [*Romans 2-9]

No. 1: 2 Samuel—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 63 pars. 28-31)
No. 2: 2 Samuel 23:8-17
No. 3: *td* 18A The Use of Images Dishonors God
No. 4: Zipporah—Theme: Show Fear and Respect When Setting Matters Right

Oct. 2 Bible reading: 1 Kings 1-2

Song No. 36 [*Romans 10–1 Corinthians 3]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Kings (*si* pp. 64-5 pars. 1-5)
No. 2: 1 Kings 2:1-11
No. 3: *td* 18B The Consequences of Image Worship
No. 4: Zophar—Theme: Harsh Criticism Is Unloving

Oct. 9 Bible reading: 1 Kings 3-6

Song No. 106 [*1 Corinthians 4-13]

No. 1: Put First Things First (*w*98 9/1 pp. 19-21)
No. 2: 1 Kings 4:21-34
No. 3: *td* 18C Jehovah Alone Is to Be Worshiped
No. 4: *td* 19A #The Way of Interfaith Is Not God's Way

Oct. 16 Bible reading: 1 Kings 7-8

Song No. 76 [*1 Corinthians 14–2 Corinthians 7]

No. 1: Witnessing Before Dignitaries (*w*98 9/1 pp. 30-1)
No. 2: 1 Kings 7:1-14
No. 3: *td* 19B Are All Religions Good?
No. 4: *td* 20A Christians Should Use God's Personal Name

Oct. 23 Bible reading: 1 Kings 9-11

Song No. 97 [*2 Corinthians 8–Galatians 4]

No. 1: The Christian View of Bride-Price (*w*98 9/15 pp. 24-7)
No. 2: 1 Kings 11:1-13
No. 3: *td* 20B Truths About God's Existence
No. 4: *td* 20C #Identifying God's Attributes

Oct. 30 Bible reading: 1 Kings 12-14

Song No. 113 [*Galatians 5–Philippians 2]

No. 1: Is God Real to You? (*w*98 9/15 pp. 21-3)
No. 2: 1 Kings 13:1-10
No. 3: *td* 20D Not All People Serve the Same God
No. 4: *td* 21A Are Jehovah's Witnesses a New Religion?

Nov. 6 Bible reading: 1 Kings 15-17

Song No. 123 [*Philippians 3–1 Thessalonians 5]

No. 1: Keep Making Spiritual Progress! (*w*98 10/1 pp. 28-31)
No. 2: 1 Kings 15:9-24
No. 3: *td* 22A Jesus Christ—God's Son and Appointed King
No. 4: *td* 22B Why Belief in Jesus Is Essential to Salvation

Nov. 13 Bible reading: 1 Kings 18-20

Song No. 159 [*2 Thessalonians 1–2 Timothy 3]

No. 1: Solve Problems Peacefully (*w*98 11/1 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: 1 Kings 20:1, 13-22
No. 3: *td* 22C Is Just Believing in Jesus Enough to Be Saved?
No. 4: *td* 23A #The Blessings That God's Kingdom Will Bring

Nov. 20 Bible reading: 1 Kings 21-22

Song No. 179 [*2 Timothy 4–Hebrews 7]

No. 1: 1 Kings—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 68-9 pars. 23-6)
No. 2: 1 Kings 22:29-40
No. 3: *td* 23B Kingdom Rule Begins While Christ's Enemies Are Still Active
No. 4: *td* 23C Kingdom of God Does Not Come Through Man's Efforts

Nov. 27 Bible reading: 2 Kings 1-3

Song No. 148 [*Hebrews 8–James 2]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Kings (*si* p. 69 pars. 1-4)
No. 2: 2 Kings 2:15-25
No. 3: *td* 24A What "the End of the World" Means
No. 4: *td* 24B #Keep Spiritually Awake to Evidence of the Last Days

Dec. 4 Bible reading: 2 Kings 4-6

Song No. 109 [*James 3–2 Peter 3]

No. 1: Beware of Simony (*w*98 11/15 p. 28)
No. 2: 2 Kings 5:20-27
No. 3: *td* 25A Everlasting Life Is Not Just a Dream
No. 4: *td* 25B Who Goes to Heaven?

Dec. 11 Bible reading: 2 Kings 7-9

Song No. 117 [*1 John 1–Revelation 1]

No. 1: Bible Principles to Follow When Lending or Borrowing Money (*w*98 11/15 pp. 24-7)
No. 2: 2 Kings 7:1, 2, 6, 7, 16-20
No. 3: *td* 25C No Limit to Number of Those Who Will Receive Everlasting Life on Earth
No. 4: *td* 26A #The Marriage Union Must Be Honorable

Dec. 18 Bible reading: 2 Kings 10-12

Song No. 181 [*Revelation 2-12]

No. 1: The Real Story of Jesus' Birth (*w*98 12/15 pp. 5-9)
No. 2: 2 Kings 11:1-3, 9-16
No. 3: *td* 26B Christians Must Respect the Principle of Headship
No. 4: *td* 26C The Parents' Responsibility to Children

Dec. 25 Written Review. Complete 2 Samuel 13–2 Kings 12

Song No. 217 [*Revelation 13-22]

Announcements *(Continued)*

Ministry School Schedule for 2000" and should be kept for reference throughout 2000.

■ If the meeting times for your congregation will change January 1, there may be a need to order a new supply of handbills to show the adjusted meeting times.

■ Memorial invitations for 2000 in the primary language of each congregation have been included with the annual shipment of forms. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested immediately on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Memorial invitations are available in Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, East Armenian, English, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2000* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Until these booklets are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Examining the Scriptures* booklets are special-request items.

■ Beginning with the September 1, 1999, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Armenian as a semimonthly edition.

■ New Publications Available:

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (large size) —Portuguese (Not the four-volume set announced earlier.)

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy! —English, French, Spanish

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends? —English

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**125**	**118.5**	**97.0**	**53.9**	**4.8**
Pios.	**77,066**	**57.7**	**40.3**	**19.4**	**1.6**
Aux. Pios.	**28,514**	**49.9**	**35.1**	**11.8**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**836,676**	**9.3**	**7.9**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**942,381**	Baptized: **6,299**			

The figure of 77,066 regular pioneers is the highest ever reported during the month of July! Also, the combined total of 105,580 regular and auxiliary pioneers is the highest number ever reported for the month of July!

Are You Moving?

When the answer to that question is yes, there are many things that you and others need to take the initiative to do. By following the basic steps outlined below, you will quickly get established in your new congregation.

(1) Once you know where you are going, your present congregation secretary may be able to obtain the address of the Kingdom Hall of your new congregation. Upon arriving in that area, immediately locate the hall and confirm the congregation meeting times. If more than one congregation uses the Kingdom Hall, ask the elders to tell you in which congregation's territory you are living. Do not delay in attending the meetings and in getting acquainted with the local elders.

(2) The secretaries of both your present congregation and your new one will cooperate in the transfer of the Congregation's Publisher Record cards for you and your family. A letter of introduction will also be sent to the elders of your new congregation. (See the February 1991 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.) The Congregation Service Committee there should advise the appropriate book study conductor of your arrival so that he can contact you and help you locate your new book study group.—Rom. 15:7.

(3) All publishers in your new congregation have a joyful part to play—that of getting acquainted with you and making you feel welcome. (Compare 3 John 8.) Of course, this means that you must be present at the meetings so that you can enjoy an encouraging and upbuilding interchange with the brothers and sisters.

(4) You should not wait until all the work involved in moving is completed before sharing in the field ministry with your new congregation. As you put Kingdom interests first, other matters will be cared for, and you will feel very comfortable in your new surroundings. (Matt. 6:33) When you are settled in your new home, likely you will want to invite some from the congregation to visit and get better acquainted.—Rom. 12:13b.

Moving is a big project. However, when everyone involved does what is recommended, there will be no spiritual setbacks. All will be favorably impressed with our loving Christian brotherhood.

What Will You Say to a Jewish Person?

[1] In the first century, many of "the sons of Israel" responded appreciatively to the preaching of Jesus and his apostles. (Acts 10:36) As was true then, a number of sincere Jews today are wholeheartedly embracing the truth—not only in Israel but also in Russia, the United States, and other countries. Would you like to be more successful in reaching out to Jewish people? The following suggestions will help you give a tactful witness both to religious and to secular Jews.

[2] **Witnessing to Religious Jews:** It should be realized that religious Jews are often more concerned with observing the traditions of the rabbis than with defining specific doctrines. Indeed, they generally view tradition as having authority equal to the Scriptures. Hence, they are not necessarily interested in discussing deep Bible subjects. They also tend to think of the Bible as a Christian book. For that reason, it is usually best when referring to the Bible to use the terms "the Hebrew Scriptures," "the Torah," or "the Scriptures." An excellent publication prepared especially for the Jewish population is the brochure *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?*

[3] What topics might interest religious Jews? Well, they believe that there is one God, who is keenly interested in man. They also believe that God does intervene in human affairs. You might use these points to establish common ground. In addition, most Jews are keenly aware of the suffering of their people during World War II. They wonder why God permitted such injustice and when wickedness will come to an end. We are well equipped to answer such questions, referring, for example, to what our brothers experienced during the Holocaust.

[4] Of course, to avoid alienating the householder, it is best not to bring up the matter of the identity of the Messiah too soon in the conversation. Instead, you might discuss the role that Moses played in Israel's history and ask the householder if he believes that Moses' teachings are relevant today. When it seems appropriate to discuss the identity of the Messiah, you might first read Deuteronomy 18:15, which states: "A prophet from your own midst, from your brothers, like me, is what Jehovah your God will raise up for you—to him you people should listen." Ask the householder who it was that Moses had in mind when he spoke of a prophet like himself. Then cover a few points in the *World Without War* brochure, page 14, paragraphs 17 and 18.

[5] **Secular Jews View Matters Differently:** Not everyone who identifies himself as Jewish accepts the teachings of Judaism. Many Jews are secular in their outlook. They are more interested in promoting a separate Jewish identity, with its culture, tradition, and education, than in practicing the Jewish religion. Some secular Jews are agnostics—a few are even atheists. Initially, little would be gained by quoting extensively from the Hebrew Scriptures. It would be more beneficial to approach the conversation as you would any discussion with a person who is not religious. You might explain, for example, how the Bible is practical for our day. If the householder does not believe that the Bible is inspired, some points in the *World Without War* brochure may be helpful, particularly those found in the section on page 3 entitled "The Bible—Inspired by God?"

[6] ***When witnessing to a Jewish person, you might say:***

- "Most of us have had the sad experience of losing a loved one in death. What do you think happens to us when we die?" Allow for a response. Then direct the householder to the box entitled "Death and the Soul—What Are They?" on page 22 of the *World Without War* brochure. The box compares what the Scriptures say about life after death with what the rabbis teach. Then turn to paragraph 17 on page 23, and show that according to the Scriptures, the dead will be resurrected to life on a paradise earth. Offer the brochure. In preparation for the return visit, you might mention that the patriarch Job entertained the resurrection hope. Refer to the scriptures cited at the end of paragraph 17, and offer to return and discuss them.

[7] The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts record experiences of Jews who listened to and acted on the truth. Jehovah is still holding the way to everlasting life open. Many sincere Jews may yet learn about Jehovah, the true God, so that they too can live forever in God's new world.—Mic. 4:1-4.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 11/99 Vol. 42, No. 11

Preaching Sets Us Apart

¹ Many people ask, "What makes Jehovah's Witnesses different from other religions?" How would you reply? You could explain some of our Bible-based beliefs. But have you also thought about pointing out how much our public ministry sets us apart from other religions?—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

² Today, few religious people feel motivated to share their beliefs with others. They may think that it is sufficient to obey Caesar's laws, to lead a morally decent life, or to do kind deeds for others. However, they feel no obligation to help others learn what the Bible says about gaining salvation. How are we different?

³ Our zealous ministry stands in sharp contrast with the activities of other religions. For over 100 years, modern-day Witnesses have diligently preached the good news to the ends of the earth, in imitation of the early Christians. Our objective in doing so is to help as many people as possible bring their lives into harmony with God's will. —1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9.

⁴ **What Is Your Reputation?** Are you known as a zealous preacher of God's Word? (Acts 17:2, 3; 18:25) Because of your preaching activity, do your neighbors readily see the difference between their religion and yours? Are you known as one who is eager to share his hope with others? Do you have a regular routine for participating in the ministry? Remember that we distinguish ourselves not only by our name but also by our doing what that name describes—witnessing about Jehovah.—Isa. 43:10.

⁵ Love for God and for neighbor motivates us to engage in the preaching activity. (Matt. 22:37-39) That is why we, like Jesus and the apostles, want to take advantage of every opportunity to share the Kingdom message with others. May we continue to preach the good news zealously to those who are willing to listen. Doing so will help honesthearted ones to "see the distinction between . . . one serving God and one who has not served him."—Mal. 3:18.

Who Might Accept a Bible Study?

¹ The prophet Amos declared that there would be a famine in the land of Israel, "a famine, not for bread, and a thirst, not for water, but for hearing the words of Jehovah." (Amos 8:11) For the benefit of those who hunger and thirst spiritually, Jehovah's organization is distributing an enormous amount of Bible literature worldwide.

² Thus far, we have printed 70 million *Knowledge* books and 91 million *Require* brochures. In teaching the truth, we appreciate the simplicity and effectiveness of these publications. However, literally multitudes of people who have received our literature have not yet studied the Bible with us. What can we do about this? -LU 5:13 "I WANT TO"

Song 156

³ **Each Placement Means a Potential Study!** Consider the experience of a publisher who offered a study to a woman the first time he spoke to her at the door. She immediately accepted. Later she told him, "You are the first person who has ever offered to study the Bible with me." In your territory, how many people who already possess our literature might say the same thing? Each placement provides an opportunity for return visits and a home Bible study. Pd & Share - Friend

⁴ Since we often encounter people who already have our publications, how can we stimulate their interest in learning what our literature contains? One Witness directly asked a householder if she had any Bible questions, only to have her say, "No." The sister persisted, "Surely you have some." The woman did, and a study developed. Why not ask the householder if he would like to learn the Bible's viewpoint on a question or a matter that concerns him? Be prepared to raise a question of interest if he cannot think of something. Such discussions may pave the way for a regular study of basic Bible truths.

⁵ Bible study activity is the heart of our ministry. Since we never know who might accept a study, do not hesitate to offer one to everyone you meet. Take the matter to Jehovah in prayer, and work in harmony with your prayers. You may soon find that someone to whom you ~~offer~~ a study will accept it!—1 John 5: 14, 15.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Week Starting November 1

Song 156

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Review "See the Power of the Bible!"

15 min: "Preaching Sets Us Apart." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Using the *Knowledge* book, page 173, paragraph 8, briefly relate what we might say to encourage a Bible student to reach out for a share in the ministry.

20 min: "Who Might Accept a Bible Study?" Talk and demonstrations. In harmony with paragraph 4, suggest various ways to stimulate interest in learning what our publications contain. Have two brief demonstrations showing how that might be done. Invite audience to tell how they have achieved success in starting studies.

Song 198 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 8

Song 204

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind brothers to prepare for next week's discussion of first 18 paragraphs of November insert.

15 min: Question Box. A talk. Outline local arrangements to keep the Kingdom Hall clean and in good condition.

20 min: "What Will You Say to a Muslim?" Questions and answers. Highlight the need for discernment when conversing with people of other cultures. Demonstrate a well-prepared presentation. For more information on Islam, see February 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert; *Reasoning* book, pages 23-4; and *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 12.

Song 208 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 15

Song 211

8 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for November 25.

25 min: "Use of the Internet—Be Alert to the Dangers!" Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-18. Read paragraphs 4-7, 12, 16, 17. Encourage all to prepare well for next week's discussion of paragraphs 19-36.

12 min: Parents—Do You Conduct a Regular Family Study? Talk and audience discussion. Explain why families need to study together. (See *School Guidebook,* pages 37-8.) Address the following hindrances to family study: (1) feeling that the children are too young to benefit, (2) thinking that attending congregation meetings is sufficient, (3) being tired because of busy schedules, and (4) being distracted by television viewing. (See May 15, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 11-12.) Invite family heads to tell how they overcome obstacles to maintaining a good routine of family study. Emphasize that this takes effort, determination, and cooperation.

Song 217 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 22

Song 158

10 min: Local announcements and field service experiences.

10 min: What Is Your Attitude Toward Assignments? Talk by an elder. There is a long list of necessary tasks required to keep the congregation functioning: preparing program assignments; picking up others for meetings or taking them in service; assisting the elderly; and cleaning, repairing, and caring for the Kingdom Hall, including lawn care and snow removal. How do you respond when asked to assist? Some may decline, accept reluctantly, or fail to follow through to completion. Discuss why accepting and fulfilling assignments is a happy privilege. Encourage all in the congregation to demonstrate a willing volunteer spirit.—Ps. 110:3, ftn.; Isa. 6:8.

25 min: "Use of the Internet—Be Alert to the Dangers!" Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 19-36. Read paragraphs 23-5 and 34-6.

Song 223 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 29

Song 215

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November.

15 min: Encourage New Ones to Attend Meetings. Discussion between an elder and one or two ministerial servants, based on the *Doing God's Will* brochure, pages 14-15. Review why it is vital that new ones attend meetings. There they will receive the major part of their instruction, encouragement, and assistance. Review the five weekly meetings, explaining the benefits of each. Discuss how meetings promote godly conduct, build spirituality, draw us to the organization, help us develop close ties with others, and assist us in understanding the purpose of our ministry. Encourage audience to use the brochure to stimulate new ones to come to meetings.

20 min: Our Choice—The *New World Translation.* Talk and demonstrations. Among religious organizations, ours is unique in that we publish, use, and distribute a translation of the Bible produced by anointed worshipers of Jehovah. It is not that we desire to profit commercially or to disseminate sectarian beliefs. Rather, we are motivated by a desire to honor God's name and to help others get to know him better. Other translations often render God's Word in a form difficult to understand, so review the distinct advantages of the *New World Translation.* (See *"All Scripture"* book, pages 327-31. Note comments in paragraph 3, point out examples of improved renderings in paragraph 6, and highlight benefits covered in paragraphs 22-3.) Have two brief demonstrations that suggest how we might respond when others say, "You have your own Bible."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 279-80.

Song 205 and concluding prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the

(*Continued on p. 7, col. 1*)

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**104**	**116.8**	**89.9**	**51.3**	**4.2**
Pios.	**79,276**	**52.1**	**35.2**	**17.5**	**1.5**
Aux. Pios.	**23,224**	**49.9**	**36.0**	**12.9**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**877,815**	**8.9**	**7.7**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**980,419**		Baptized: **1,763**		

August brought a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 79,276 regular pioneers represents an increase of 626, or nearly 1 percent, over the previous peak in April 1999.

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Use of the Internet—Be Alert to the Dangers!

[1] Jehovah's people enjoy wholesome association with one another. They enjoy sharing experiences from the field ministry and appreciate hearing about events that occur in connection with Jehovah's Witnesses and the Kingdom work around the globe. They like to be informed about anything outstanding that may happen to our brothers, such as a crisis or a natural disaster, and they want to know if there is something they can do to help. Such interest shows the unity of the brotherhood, proving that we do indeed love one another. —John 13:34, 35.

[2] Today, we hear about world events quickly. Radio and television broadcasts give live coverage of events in full detail to audiences all over the globe. The telephone also makes it possible to communicate immediately with people around the world. In communications a recent phenomenon that is taking the world by storm is the Internet.—See *Awake!*, July 22, 1997.

[3] The invention of the telephone opened the way to fast personal communication worldwide. Although the telephone is very useful, caution is needed in the way it is employed, as it can be a tool for improper association or activities, and overuse of the telephone can be expensive. Television and radio have potential in the field of education. Sadly, though, much of the programming is morally corrupt, and attention to it is a waste of time. Wisdom dictates that we be very selective in the use of television and radio.

[4] The Internet enables one to communicate inexpensively with millions of others throughout the world, and it opens the door to vast amounts of information. (*Awake!*, January 8, 1998) The indiscriminate use of the Internet, however, can expose a person to great spiritual and moral dangers. How is this so?

[5] Many are concerned about readily available information that shows how to build weapons, including bombs. Industry complains about the amount of time workers waste using the Internet. Much has been stated in our publications about the obvious spiritual dangers encountered on the Internet. Numerous Web sites present violent and pornographic materials that are entirely unsuitable for Christians. (Ps. 119:37) In addition to these dangers, there is a more insidious danger that Jehovah's Witnesses in particular need to be on guard against. What is this danger?

[6] Would you invite a stranger into your home without first finding out who he is? What if there was no way to find out? Would you allow such a stranger to be alone with your children? This is an indisputable possibility on the Internet.

[7] Electronic mail can be sent to and received from people you do not know. The same is true when you converse electronically in a forum or in a chat room. Participants may at times claim to be Jehovah's Witnesses, but often they are not. Someone may claim to be a youth when he is not. Or a person may even falsely claim to be of a certain gender.

[8] Information passed on to you may come in the form of experiences or comments about our beliefs. This information is passed on to others who, in turn, pass it on to still others. The information is generally not verifiable and may be untrue. The comments may be a cover for spreading apostate reasoning. —2 Thess. 2:1-3.

[9] With this danger in mind, if you use the Internet, ask yourself: 'What do I use it for? Is there a possibility that I could be harmed spiritually by how I am using it? Could I be contributing to the spiritual injury of others?'

[10] **Web Sites of "Jehovah's Witnesses":** Consider, for example, some Internet sites set up by individuals who claim to be Jehovah's Witnesses. They invite you to visit their sites to read experiences posted by others who claim to be Witnesses. You are encouraged to share your thoughts and views about the Society's literature. Some give recommendations about presentations that could be used in the field ministry. These sites offer chat rooms for individuals to connect to, allowing live communication with others, similar to talking on the telephone. They often point you to other sites where you can have on-line association with Jehovah's Witnesses around the world. But can you tell for certain that these contacts have not been planted by apostates?

[11] Having association via the Internet may not be consistent with the recommendation found at Ephesians 5:15-17. The apostle Paul wrote: "Keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked. On this account cease becoming unreasonable, but go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is."

[12] The Christian congregation is the theocratic means through which we are fed spiritually by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) Within God's organization, we find direction and protection to keep us separate from the world as well as motivation to keep busy in the work of the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58) The psalmist indicated that he experienced joy and a feeling of security among God's congregated people. (Ps. 27:4, 5; 55:14; 122:1) The congregation also provides spiritual support and assistance for those associated with it. Therein, you can find a group of loving, concerned, and caring friends—people you personally know who are ready and willing to help and comfort others in times of distress. (2 Cor. 7:5-7) Congregation members are protected by the Scriptural provision for disfellowshipping those who sin unrepentantly or who promote apostate thinking. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Titus 3:10, 11) Can we expect to find these same loving arrangements when associating with others via the Internet?

[13] It has become apparent that the opposite is true. Some Web sites are clearly vehicles for apostate propaganda. Such Web sites may claim otherwise, and those who sponsor a site may give a detailed explanation to affirm that they truly *are* Jehovah's Witnesses. They may even request information from you in order to verify that *you* are one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

[14] Jehovah wants you to exercise discernment. Why? Because he knows that it will safeguard you from various dangers. Proverbs 2:10-19 opens by saying: "When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge itself becomes pleasant to your very soul, thinking ability itself will keep guard over you, discernment itself will safeguard you." Safeguard you from what? From such things as "the bad way," those leaving upright paths, and people who are immoral and devious in their general course.

[15] When we go to the Kingdom Hall, there is no question that we are with our brothers. We know them. No one requires authentication of this because the brotherly love manifested makes it obvious. We are not personally required to provide credentials to prove that we truly are one of Jehovah's Witnesses. It is here that we find the true interchange of encouragement that Paul spoke about at Hebrews 10:24, 25. Web sites that encourage on-line association cannot be depended on to provide this. Having in mind the words of Psalm 26:4, 5 can alert us to dangers that could easily be encountered when using Web sites on the Internet.

[16] There are no limits or checks on the kind of information that is maintained by and accessible to Internet users. Often, children and teenagers are easy targets of crime and exploitation in this environment. Children are trusting, curious, and anxious to explore the relatively new world of cyberspace. Parents therefore need to supervise their children and give them sound Scriptural guidance about using the Internet, just as they would guide them in their choice of music or movies.—1 Cor. 15:33.

[17] Sadly, some who were once our brothers and sisters have had to be disfellowshipped because of association that started by meeting worldly individuals in chat rooms on the Internet and eventually led to immorality. In shocked disbelief, elders have written that some had actually left their husbands or wives to pursue a relationship that began on the Internet. (2 Tim. 3:6) Other individuals have disowned the truth because of believing information provided by apostates. (1 Tim. 4:1, 2) Given these very serious dangers, does it not seem reasonable to be cautious about becoming involved in chat sessions on the Internet? Certainly, exercising the wisdom, knowledge, thinking ability, and discernment spoken of at Proverbs 2:10-19 should safeguard us in this.

[18] Noticeably, there have been a number of individuals who have created Web sites ostensibly to preach the good news. Many of these sites are sponsored by indiscreet brothers. Other sites may be sponsored by apostates who wish to lure unsuspecting ones. (2 John 9-11) Commenting on whether there is a need for our brothers to create such Web sites,

Our Kingdom Ministry, November 1997, page 3, stated: "There is no need for any individual to prepare Internet pages about Jehovah's Witnesses, our activities, or our beliefs. Our official site [www.watchtower.org] presents accurate information for any who want it."

19 **Study Aids via the Internet?** Some have felt that they are rendering a service to the brothers by posting researched information in connection with various theocratic activities. For example, a person may do research based on a public-talk outline and then post this, thinking that such information will benefit those who need to prepare the same outline. Others will post all the scriptures for an upcoming *Watchtower* Study or provide source material for the Theocratic Ministry School or the Congregation Book Study. Some may offer suggestions for field ministry presentations. Are such really helpful?

20 The publications provided by Jehovah's organization stimulate our minds with upbuilding thoughts and train us "to distinguish both right and wrong." (Heb. 5:14) Can we say that this is achieved if others do our research for us?

21 The Beroeans were spoken of as "more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica." Why? Because "they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so." (Acts 17:11) Although Paul and Silas preached to them, they could not make the truth their own without becoming personally involved.

22 Using another person's research for a talk or for other meeting preparation really defeats the purpose of personal study. Is it not your desire to build up your own personal faith in God's Word? Based on personal conviction, you can then make public expression of your faith—in your talks, in comments at the meetings, and in the field ministry. (Rom. 10:10) Using another person's research does not fit the description given at Proverbs 2:4, 5 to personally 'keep seeking and searching for the very knowledge of God as for hid treasures.'

23 For example, when looking up scriptures in your own copy of the Bible, you can briefly review the context of each scripture. You can 'trace all things with accuracy,' as did Luke when he wrote his Gospel. (Luke 1:3) The extra effort will also help you to be skillful in looking up scriptures in the ministry and when giving talks. Many have stated that they are impressed with Jehovah's Witnesses because they know how to use their Bibles. The only way that this can apply to us is if we make it a practice personally to look up scriptures in our own Bibles.

24 **Using Our Time Wisely:** Another consideration in this regard has to do with the amount of time spent creating, reading, and responding to information posted on the Internet. Psalm 90:12 encourages us to pray: "Show us just how to count our days in such a way that we may bring a heart of wisdom in." Paul stated: "The time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29) And further: "Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith."—Gal. 6:10.

25 Such counsel highlights the need for us to be judicious in the use of our time. How much more profitable it is to spend time reading God's Word! (Ps. 1:1, 2) That is the best association we can have. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Parents, are you teaching your children the value of using their time wisely in Kingdom pursuits? (Eccl. 12:1) Time spent in personal and family Bible study, meeting attendance, and field ministry far outweighs time spent browsing the Internet, expecting to gain benefits.

26 In this regard, it is the course of wisdom to focus our attention on spiritual matters and on those things relevant and essential to our lives as Christians. This calls for the making of well-considered choices respecting the information that merits our time and thought. As Christians, that which is relevant to our lives was summed up by Christ, who said: "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) Are you not happiest when your life is filled with Kingdom pursuits rather than any other activity?

27 **Internet E-Mail:** Although sharing personal experiences or thoughts among family or friends who live far apart is appropriate, is it really loving to pass these on to others who may not know your family or friends? Or

should these be posted on a Web page for just anyone to read? Are these personal messages to be copied and sent indiscriminately to people whom you may or may not know? Likewise, if you receive messages from others that were clearly not intended for you, is it loving to pass them on to still others?

[28] What if the experience you pass on is not accurate? Would this not be sharing in perpetuating an untruth? (Prov. 12:19; 21:28; 30:8; Col. 3:9) Certainly, keeping "strict watch that how [we] walk is not as unwise but as wise persons" would move us to consider this. (Eph. 5:15) How happy we are that the *Yearbook, The Watchtower,* and *Awake!* are filled with verifiable experiences that encourage us and motivate us to keep walking in "the way"! —Isa. 30:20, 21.

[29] There is also another danger. The apostle Paul said concerning some: "They also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses; yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other people's affairs, talking of things they ought not." (1 Tim. 5:13) This argues against spending time and effort passing on frivolous information to our brothers.

[30] Think, too, of the amount of time that it takes to keep up with a large quantity of E-mail. Interestingly, the book *Data Smog* stated: "As one spends more and more time online, e-mail quickly changes from being a stimulating novelty to a time-consuming burden, with dozens of messages to read and answer every day from colleagues, friends, family, . . . and unsolicited sales pitches." Further, it states: "Many electronic glutizens have picked up the very bad habit of forwarding every entertaining nugget they receive—jokes, urban myths, electronic chain letters, and more—to everyone on their electronic address book."

[31] This has been evident in the E-mail circulated among many of the brothers—such items as jokes or humorous stories about the ministry; poetry presumably based on our beliefs; illustrations from various talks heard at assemblies, conventions, or at the Kingdom Hall; experiences from the field ministry; and so forth—things that seem innocent enough. Most routinely forward such E-mail without checking the source, making it difficult to know who really is the originator, which ought to make one wonder if the information is really true.—Prov. 22:20, 21.

[32] Such often-frivolous messages are not the kind of healthful words that Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy, saying: "Keep holding *the pattern of healthful words* that you heard from me with the faith and love that are in connection with Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 1:13) The "pure language" of Scriptural truth has "the pattern of healthful words" based mainly on the Bible's theme of the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty by means of the Kingdom. (Zeph. 3:9) We should make every effort to devote all our available time and energy to support this vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty.

[33] Since we are deep into the time of the end of this system of things, this is no time to let our guard down. The Bible warns us: "Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone." (1 Pet. 5:8) It further states: "Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil."—Eph. 6:11.

[34] If misused, the Internet can be a means by which Satan overreaches those who are seduced by its power. Although it may have limited usefulness, there is danger if it is not viewed with caution. Parents especially need to be concerned about their children's use of the Internet.

[35] Keeping a balanced view of the Internet is a protection. We appreciate the timely reminder by Paul: "Let . . . those making use of the world [be] as those not using it to the full; for the scene of this world is changing." (1 Cor. 7:29-31) Having these things in mind will help keep us and our families from becoming distracted by all that the world has to offer, including what is available on the Internet.

[36] It is imperative that we stay close to our brothers in the congregation and use the remaining time wisely, thus making ourselves available for the advancing of Kingdom interests. As this system nears its finish, let us "no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk in the unprofitableness of their minds," but let us "go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is."—Eph. 4:17; 5:17.

Announcements *(Continued)*

New World Translation. **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

- Congregations should begin requesting the *2000 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. The *Yearbook* will be available in Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish. Until the *Yearbook* is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Yearbooks* are special-request items.

- The presiding overseer should telephone the Society if he does not receive the congregation's supply of *Our Kingdom Ministry* by the 20th of the month preceding the issue date.

- New Publications Available:

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Persian
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Chinese, Iloko, Persian, Tagalog, Thai
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Faeroese
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Slovak
Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Tigrinya
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —East Armenian
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Hebrew
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995 —Swedish
What Does God Require of Us? —East Armenian
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Albanian, Indonesian, Slovak
Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Zande

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life! (Drama, single cassette) —Polish
The Secret of Family Happiness (four cassettes in an album) —Croatian
When Someone You Love Dies (single cassette) —English
Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette) —Croatian, Polish

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —French

See the Power of the Bible!

How? By viewing the video *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life.* It is the third volume in the videocassette series entitled *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy.*

Do you want a successful marriage? Do you need help to survive difficult times? How can young people grow up to be responsible adults? The Bible can help, as this video shows. Hear people tell of the power for good that the Bible has been in their lives. Listen to them explain how its principles have helped them face the problems of modern-day life.

This video is a valuable tool for helping newly interested ones see the benefits of using God's Word as a guide in their lives. The Society has *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life* in stock. You may request a copy through the congregation literature servant.

QUESTION BOX

- Who is responsible for cleaning the Kingdom Hall?

A Kingdom Hall that is clean and attractive reflects favorably on the message that we preach. (Compare 1 Peter 2:12.) Keeping the hall neat and tidy is essential, and everyone can have a share in its upkeep. We should not expect just a few people to bear the whole load. Usually, cleaning is arranged according to Congregation Book Study groups, with the study conductor or his assistant taking the lead. In halls where more than one congregation meets, the elders will organize matters so that all the congregations share in the upkeep.

How can we best care for this responsibility? The Kingdom Hall should be cleaned according to a regular schedule. Supplies and equipment should be on hand for use in cleaning. A list of things that need to be done should be posted where the workers can consult it for direction. There may be two different lists, one for a general light cleaning after each meeting and another for a more thorough weekly cleaning. The book study conductor should schedule the thorough cleaning for a day and time that is convenient for all assigned. Regular attention should also be given to the lawn, flowers, and shrubbery. The sidewalks and the parking areas should be kept free of litter. Each year a spring-cleaning ought to be done, perhaps just before the Memorial. This might include washing the windows and walls, shampooing the carpet, and cleaning the draperies.

Of course, all of us can lighten the load by not dropping chewing gum or litter inside or outside the hall. We can tidy up the rest room after each use, leaving it clean for the next person. Be careful to avoid breaking equipment or damaging the furnishings. Take notice of carpet stains, damaged chairs, plumbing problems, burned-out light bulbs, and so forth, and promptly report these matters to the brother in charge of Kingdom Hall maintenance.

Let all of us be willing to do our part. This makes for a pleasing house of worship and distinguishes us as a clean people that honors Jehovah God.—1 Pet. 1:16.

What Will You Say to a Muslim?

[1] Have you had the experience of witnessing to a Muslim? If so, you probably learned that Muslims have a fervent belief in God. However, they know little about the coming Paradise on earth as foretold by Jehovah's prophets, and we would like to share that hope with them. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) The following information should help you give a good witness.

[2] Muslims believe in Allah, or God, and they believe that Muḥammad is God's prophet. Their holy book is the Koran, and their religion is called Islam, which means "submission." The Koran states that lying and the worship of idols are wrong, that God is one, and that he is no part of a Trinity. Also, it teaches the immortality of the soul, hellfire, and a heavenly paradise. Muslims accept the Bible as God's Word but believe that it has been changed, while the Koran, still in its original language, has been kept pure.

[3] **Be Friendly, Tactful, and Discerning:** When engaging a Muslim in conversation, be friendly and tactful. (Prov. 25:15) Bear in mind that Muslim beliefs are firmly entrenched and that most of them have been learned by rote. Thus, reasoning on religious teachings and proving to themselves what God's will is has not been a part of their spiritual development. (Rom. 12:2) To help Muslims, patience and understanding are vital.—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

[4] Avoid using expressions that would in a Muslim person's mind link you with Christendom. Make it clear that you are no part of either Catholic or Protestant religion, that you are different. Refer to the Bible as the Book of God. Since Muslims have an aversion to the term "Son of God," it is usually best not to use it or to discuss this subject until spiritual progress has been made. However, you can speak about Jesus, referring to him as a prophet or messenger. Avoid arguing. If you observe that anger begins to surface, politely take your leave immediately.

[5] It is best to speak with just one person and not with a group. Usually, it is advisable for women to witness to women, and men, to men. Obviously, there are exceptions to this, but good judgment should be used. Also, many Muslims are sensitive about what they consider to be immodest dress and grooming by women. Sisters need to be aware of this. —1 Cor. 10:31-33.

[6] **Things to Talk About:** Speak frankly about the greatness of God and his love. Do not hesitate to state that you are a true believer, that God is one (not a Trinity), and that idol worship is wrong. Speak about the wickedness in the world today—wars, civil unrest, racial hatred, and the hypocrisy that is evident among so many religious people.

[7] The brochure *The Guidance of God—Our Way to Paradise* will give you further insight into topics that can be used to open conversations with Muslims. It is designed to appeal to Muslims who live in an environment where they may feel free to study the Bible.

[8] ***As a presentation, you might say:***

■ "I am making a special effort to speak to Muslims. I have been reading about your religion and believe that I am right in saying that Muslims believe in one true God and in all the prophets. [Allow for response.] I would like to talk with you about an ancient prophecy that foretells the transformation of the earth into a paradise. May I read to you what the prophet wrote? [Read Isaiah 11:6-9.] This prophecy makes me think of a quotation from the Koran that is found in this brochure." Turn to page 9 in the *Guidance of God* brochure, and read the quotation in bold print, which refers to righteous ones' inheriting the earth. If interest is shown, continue the conversation by discussing paragraphs 7 to 9 on the opposite page. Leave the brochure, and arrange for a return visit.—For another presentation, see the February 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 6, paragraph 27.

[9] When inviting someone to consider the *Guidance of God* brochure, it is best to call it a discussion, not a Bible study. When you complete the brochure, the student should be ready to study the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. Other publications that are especially designed for Muslims are the tract *How to Find the Road to Paradise* and the booklet *The Time for True Submission to God*.

[10] With this knowledge of Islamic beliefs and sensitivities, we can be discerning in our selection of literature that we offer to Muslims and in the way that we witness to them. May Jehovah continue to bless our efforts to assist people of all sorts to call on his name and be saved.—Acts 2:21.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 1999 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/99 Vol. 42, No. 12

Imitate Jehovah's Impartiality

[1] Jehovah is concerned about people. He impartially accepts anyone who does his will. (Acts 10:34, 35) When Jesus preached to people, he likewise was impartial. (Luke 20:21) We need to imitate their example, as did Paul, who wrote: "There is the same Lord over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him." —Rom. 10:12.

[2] Proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom to all whom we meet brings glory to God. We must continue to share this wonderful message with others, regardless of their race, social status, education, or financial standing. (Rom. 10:11-13) This means preaching to those who will listen—men, women, young, and elderly. We need to call at every door to give each householder an opportunity to hear the truth.

[3] **Take an Interest in Everyone:** Our goal is to contact everyone we can. With this in mind, some publishers have been successful in witnessing to people in doctor's offices, hospitals, nursing homes, welfare offices, and rehabilitation centers. Additionally, publishers have witnessed to funeral directors, school supervisors and counselors, and judges. When approaching officials, it is appropriate to express appreciation to them for the helpful services they provide in the community. Be respectful, and select timely articles that deal particularly with their type of work and the problems associated with it.

[4] In one instance a sister managed to speak to a judge in his office. After a lively conversation, he volunteered this comment: "Do you know what I like about Jehovah's Witnesses? They have well-founded principles from which they do not deviate." A fine witness was given to this influential person.

[5] We cannot read the hearts of people. However, by talking with everyone we meet, we show our faith in God's ability to direct our work. In addition, this gives people the privilege to hear and respond to the message of hope. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Let us use our time wisely and endeavor to imitate Jehovah's impartiality by reaching all the people we can with the good news.—Rom. 2:11; Eph. 5:1, 2.

Haven't We Heard That Before?

[1] Of course we have! Jehovah repeats many things in his Word for the benefit of his people. Jesus often repeated his teachings about various aspects of the Kingdom. His apostles continually reviewed spiritual matters with those who were firmly grounded in the truth.—Rom. 15:15; 2 Pet. 1:12, 13; 3:1, 2.

[2] In our time Jehovah's organization has arranged for important subjects to be reviewed over and over again at congregation meetings. Certain publications have been studied repeatedly. Yes, it is important to hear things that we have heard before!

[3] **Repetition Fills a Vital Need:** Jehovah's reminders deepen our understanding, expand our viewpoint, and strengthen our determination to stay on course spiritually. (Ps. 119:129) Reviewing God's standards and principles is like looking in a mirror. It helps us scrutinize ourselves and counteracts the tendency to be "a forgetful hearer."—Jas. 1: 22-25.

[4] If we do not keep reminding ourselves of the truth, other things will influence our hearts. God's reminders strengthen us to resist the corrupting influences of Satan's world. (Ps. 119: 2, 3, 99, 133; Phil. 3:1) The regular reminders we receive regarding the fulfillment of God's purposes prompt us to "keep on the watch." (Mark 13:32-37) Repetition of Scriptural truths helps us remain on the road to everlasting life.—Ps. 119:144.

[5] **How to Benefit Personally:** We must 'incline our hearts to God's reminders.' (Ps. 119:36) When a familiar subject is to be considered at a congregation meeting, we should prepare in advance, look up the cited scriptures, and reflect on how we can apply the information. Let us not skip the written review in the Theocratic Ministry School, thinking that it is not needed. (Luke 8:18) Never would we want to become inattentive because basic truths are often repeated at our meetings.—Heb. 5:11.

[6] May we share the attitude of the psalmist: "In the way of your reminders I have exulted, just as over all other valuable things." (Ps. 119:14) Yes, we have heard these valuable things before, and likely we will hear them again. Why? Because Jehovah knows that we need to hear them!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: Beginning with this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the Service Meeting Schedule will include an outline for the first Service Meeting of the following month. This adjustment is being made to compensate for possible delayed shipments of *Our Kingdom Ministry* because of a new shipping arrangement.

Week Starting December 6

Song 207

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Imitate Jehovah's Impartiality." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Explain the meaning of impartiality, how Jehovah displays it, and how we can demonstrate this in our ministry.—See *Insight,* Volume 1, page 1192, paragraphs 4-7.

20 min: "Haven't We Heard That Before?" Talk and audience discussion. Invite audience to comment on how repetition has helped them to understand and appreciate the truth more fully.—See *The Watchtower,* July 15, 1995, pages 21-2, and August 15, 1993, pages 13-14, paragraphs 10-12.

Song 218 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 13

Song 168

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Offer suggestions on how to respond tactfully to holiday greetings. If the congregation has copies of the *Greatest Man* or *Great Teacher* books in stock, show how they can be used to good advantage in the ministry during the Christmas holidays.

15 min: "The Theocratic Ministry School for 2000." A talk by the Theocratic Ministry School overseer. Review the following changes in the schedule for the new year. Assignment No. 3 will be based on "Bible Topics for Discussion" as found in the *New World Translation.* Assignment No. 4 will continue to cover Bible characters from *Insight on the Scriptures* and during the last three months of the year will be based on "Bible Topics for Discussion." Where the number sign (#) appears next to this assignment, it is preferred that a brother handle it. Encourage all to keep up with their weekly Bible reading and to be diligent in fulfilling assignments in the school.

20 min: "What Will You Say to an Atheist?" Questions and answers. Review various reasons why many have lost faith in God. Suggest some ways we might approach them to help them see the logic in recognizing God's existence. Have one or two brief demonstrations. For more information, see *Reasoning* book, pages 145-51, and *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 14.

Song 220 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 20

Song 219

10 min: Local announcements. Have publishers relate brief pointed experiences they have enjoyed recently in field service.

15 min: Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers. Audience discussion and demonstrations. Read "Comments" on pages 15-16 of the *Reasoning* book. Pick out two or three "conversation stoppers" from pages 16-20, or use others that are frequently encountered in your territory. Review some of the suggested responses, and analyze why they may be effective locally. Briefly demonstrate a few of them. Invite audience to relate responses they have used with good results.

20 min: Should I Accept Employment Involving a Religious Organization? Talk by an elder, based on the April 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 28-30. Some individuals have accepted such employment and later discovered that what they were doing was not in harmony with Bible principles. Review the questions we need to consider when making a decision about doing secular work that has some religious connections. Encourage all to pursue a course that will ensure a good standing before Jehovah.—2 Cor. 6:3, 4, 14-18.

Song 109 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 27

Song 166

10 min: Local announcements. If your congregation will change meeting times for the new year, give kind encouragement urging all to maintain regular meeting attendance at the new times. Inform Bible students and other interested ones of any changes, and begin using handbills that show the new schedule. Remind all to turn in field service reports for December.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Offering Older Books During January. Talk and demonstrations. Show two or three older 192-page books, published prior to 1986, that are in congregation stock, and encourage publishers to pick up some for the field ministry. (If none are available, discuss the alternate offer for January.) Explain why these older publications are still effective for cultivating interest in the Bible. In each book highlight talking points and illustrations that can be used to good advantage in starting conversations. Demonstrate one or two presentations. Where interest is found, the *Require* brochure can be used to start a study.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 3

NOTE: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 3 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting.

Song 10

8 min: Local announcements.

17 min: Know How to Give an Answer. (Col. 4:6) Talk and audience discussion. The *Reasoning* book is a wonderful aid in paving the way to share Bible truth with others. When a householder raises an objection to one of our beliefs, perhaps we can use the feature "If Someone Says—" at the end of the section dealing with that belief. Discuss the remarks about the Bible that are noted on pages 64-8, and consider why the suggested replies may prove to be effective.

20 min: "2000 'Doers of God's Word' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." Secretary handles question-and-answer coverage of article in insert. First, read December 15, 1999, convention assignment letter. Use the cited scriptures to show why all of us need to follow the Society's direction closely. Stress the importance of everyone arranging definite vacation dates ahead of time in order to attend every day of the convention, including Friday. Commend the brothers for cooperating with the Society's arrangements.

Song 56 and concluding prayer.

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2000 "Doers of God's Word" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] "I will laud you in the big congregation; among a numerous people I shall praise you." (Ps. 35:18) Imagine how thrilled David would be today to see so many thousands peacefully assembling together to take in divine instruction at our conventions! Were you among the 1,414,534 who attended one of the "God's Prophetic Word" District Conventions? From late May through early September 1999, a total of 201 conventions were held in 71 cities in the contiguous United States. Our district conventions in 2000 will provide us with new opportunities to gather with fellow praisers of Jehovah, who are "conscious of their spiritual need" and happy and eager to "hear what the spirit says to the congregations."—Matt. 5:3; Rev. 2:29.

[2] **Making Your Hotel Reservation:** Each year we are happy to provide you with information on how you can make rooming arrangements for the convention, and we appreciate very much your cooperation with these instructions. The local Rooming Department has prepared a Recommended Lodging List of hotels that will begin accepting reservations in January. Please carefully follow the instructions in this insert in the box entitled "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." Because of fire and safety regulations, you should arrange for no more than four persons in each room. If a particular hotel permits more than four persons to a room, this will be clearly indicated on the Recommended Lodging List under the heading "Adults."

[3] Hotels available for your convention appear on the first Recommended Lodging List. When these hotels are filled, a revised list will be sent to your congregation. If you have called all the hotels on the list and no rooms are available, please inform your congregation secretary. Using the address or telephone number shown at the top of the list, he will contact the Rooming Department and advise them of the situation. Rather than making a reservation at a hotel not on the list, wait for the new list.

[4] Once you make a reservation, please do not switch your reservation to another hotel. Hotels are added because there are brothers and sisters who still need rooms, not to provide more choices for those who already have rooms reserved. Following this direction gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our Christian brothers and to avoid the "me first" attitude so prevalent in the world today. —1 Cor. 10:24.

Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[5] **Sending Deposits to Hotels and Handling Hotel Problems:** To guarantee a room reservation, within ten days of making your reservation, a one-night deposit must be made for each room reserved. Without a deposit, the hotel has the right to give your room to someone else. For any difficulties experienced before or after the convention, you may write or call the Rooming Department, using the address or telephone number shown at the top of the Recommended Lodging List. If a problem arises during the convention, you should go to the convention Rooming Department as soon as possible so that the brothers can assist you before you check out of the hotel.

[6] **Caring for Those With Special Needs:** Relatives, the elders, and others in the congregation who are aware of the unique circumstances of the elderly, the infirm, full-time servants, or others with special needs can show their loving concern and care by assisting these ones to attend the convention. (Compare 1 Timothy 5:4.) The Society's Special Needs Room Request form outlines the qualifications for submitting this form. This provision is only for publishers in good standing, including those with well-behaved children, who have been approved by the Congregation Service Committee. These requests should be sent to the Rooming Department as soon as possible,

using the convention address shown on the reverse side of the form.

[7] **Attending Another Convention:** If you need a Recommended Lodging List or information for another convention, the congregation secretary can provide you with the address of the convention headquarters, which is found on the reverse side of the Special Needs Room Request form. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. If there is more than one convention held in that city, be sure to indicate the dates of the convention you will attend.

[8] **Arrange to Be in Attendance All Three Days:** Has Satan tried to distract you from giving attention to spiritual things? Sadly, many brothers and sisters and their families are missing out on vital spiritual food. How? By not attending the Friday district convention sessions. In some instances it has been noted that a large percentage of our brothers are missing the spiritual instruction and fellowship that the Friday sessions provide.

[9] It is possible that some brothers are reluctant to approach their employers to request the time off to attend the convention. Is this your situation? Why not pray to Jehovah about the matter and muster up the courage to explain your situation to your employer? Remember the good outcome for Nehemiah, who was in a similar situation. (Neh. 2:1-6) Have faith in our heavenly Father's willingness to help you, knowing that if you put Kingdom interests first, he will provide life's necessities.—Matt. 6: 32b, 33.

[10] **How Do Our Conventions Affect You?** A sister from the eastern United States wrote: "Thank you so much for the 1999 district convention. Associating with brothers whom I see only once each year brings me much joy. I came in contact with the truth as a pregnant teenager, and I still recall with great fondness when my Bible study conductor took me to my first convention. I looked at the clouds above my head in that open-air stadium as we sang the Kingdom song 'Myriads of Brothers,' and I wept. 'With all these beautiful people around me,' I asked myself, 'how could Jehovah want me?' That day I decided to serve Jehovah fully." How heartwarming! It is certainly a pleasure to be associated with Jehovah's clean people, is it not?

[11] During the final part of the last days, we need our annual district convention more than ever before. It is a provision from Jehovah to maintain our spiritual health and balance. Therefore, be resolved to attend all three days of this year's "Doers of God's Word" District Convention. How can you follow through with your resolve? Ask your employer beforehand for the time off from work to attend the entire convention. If your means are limited, start now to set aside the necessary funds to attend. Ask Jehovah to help you overcome any obstacle. As you do so, you can look forward to enjoying the warm companionship of your brothers and sisters and to hearing the sayings of everlasting life from our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah. —Compare John 6:68.

Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation

1. Call hotels during regular business hours (in January, if possible). Use the hotel telephone numbers provided on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses attending the Watchtower convention.
3. Provide the dates you will stay in the hotel.
4. Be sure that you are receiving the room rate(s) shown on the Recommended Lodging List. Do not accept a higher rate.
5. If rooms are not available, call another hotel on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order. Do NOT send cash. If deposit is made by

   Credit card: Instruct the hotel to charge the deposit to your card immediately.

   Check or money order: Write the confirmation number on the front, and mail *within ten days*.

Also, Please:

- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Reserve room(s) only for yourself or for people with whom you have made specific arrangements.
- Keep your first reservation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 6 to December 20, 1999. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

T 1. Jehovah has permitted independent human rule in order to prove that His way of ruling is always right and just. (Deut. 32:4; Job 34:10-12; Jer. 10:23) [*w*97 2/15 p. 5 par. 3]

2. The Bible indicates that God condemns all complaining. [*w*97 12/1 p. 30 pars. 3-4]

T 3. Parents keep relationships with their married children in proper perspective by recognizing the godly principles of headship and good order. (Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 11:3; 14:33, 40) [*fy* p. 164 par. 6]

4. Mark 6:31-34 shows that Jesus was moved with pity for the crowd only because of their sickness and poverty. [*w*97 12/15 p. 29 par. 1]

5. If a Christian of the other sheep class is not able to attend the Memorial of Jesus' death, he should celebrate it a month later in harmony with the principle stated at Numbers 9:10, 11. (John 10:16) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*93 2/1 p. 31 par. 9.]

6. While Christian grandparents do not take over the responsibility of the father and mother to inculcate Bible truths in their children, grandparents can play a complementary role in contributing to the spiritual development of a child. (Deut. 6:7; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15) [*fy* p. 168 par. 15]

7. Proverbs 6:30 shows that stealing may be excused or justified under certain circumstances. [*g*97 11/8 p. 19 par. 2]

8. In 1530, William Tyndale was the first to use God's name, Jehovah, in an English translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. [*w*97 9/15 p. 28 par. 3]

9. Today, the antitypical city of refuge is God's provision for protecting us from death for violating his commandment about the sanctity of blood. (Num. 35:11) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 11/15 p. 17 par. 8.]

F 10. The name Deuteronomy, meaning "Second Law," is appropriate because this Bible book is a mere repetition of the Law. [Weekly Bible reading; see *si* p. 36 par. 4.]

Answer the following questions:

Sin of

11. What is pictured by the two leavened loaves offered by the high priest during the Festival of Pentecost? (Lev. 23:15-17) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*98 3/1 p. 13 par. 21.]

Pent 33 CE

12. When did the Christian Jubilee begin, and what kind of liberty did it bring at that time? (Lev. 25:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 5/15 p. 24 par. 14.]

13. According to the record in the book of Numbers, survival depends on what three things? [*si* p. 30 par. 1] ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

14. In what way was Moses a fine example in demonstrating that he did not have a jealous spirit? (Num. 11:29) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 9/15 p. 18 par. 11.]

for more prophet

15. How does the case of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram illustrate that seeing does not always lead to believing? [*w*97 3/15 p. 4 par. 2] [illegible] 10 Spy [illegible]

rebelled

16. What two aspects of honoring elderly parents are highlighted at Matthew 15:3-6 and 1 Timothy 5:4? [*fy* pp. 173-5 pars. 2-5] ~~[illegible]~~ not revile &

due Compensation

17. What important lesson is highlighted at Numbers 26:64, 65? [Weekly Bible reading; see *g*95 8/8 pp. 10-11 pars. 5-8.]

Jeh [illegible] word

18. How does Phinehas' example help us to appreciate what dedication to Jehovah means? (Num. 25:11) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 3/1 p. 16 pars. 12-13.]

Tolerates no rivalry

19. How might one in the antitypical city of refuge 'go out of the boundary' of the city? (Num. 35:26) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 11/15 p. 20 par. 20.] By leaving arrangement

20. In what way was the Codex Sinaiticus a boon to Bible translation? [*w*97 10/15 p. 11 par. 2] old

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Jehovah has permitted evil to exist to establish once and for all the fundamental sovereign truth that he alone is supreme and that faithfulness to his laws is essential for the continued peace and happiness of all his creations. (Ps. 1:1-3; Prov. 3:5, 6; Eccl. 8:9) [*w*97 2/15 p. 5 par. 4]

22. The book of Leviticus is outstanding in highlighting the sanctity of blood, showing that the only use permitted for it is as [illegible] life. [*si* p. 29 par. 33]

23. In harmony with Psalm 144:15b, true happiness is a condition of the heart, based on genuine ~~[illegible]~~ faith and a good ~~[illegible]~~ relationship with Jehovah. [*w*97 3/15 p. 23 par. 7]

24. The Bible that resulted from the translation of the Hebrew Bible into common Greek, completed about 150 B.C.E., came to be known as the Septuagint. Jerome's translation of the Bible into Latin came to be known as the Vulgate, being completed about 400 C.E. [*w*97 8/15 p. 9 par. 1; p. 10 par. 4]

25. By drawing on the accounts about Balaam and Korah as recorded in the book of Numbers, Jude warned Christians to be on guard against the pitfalls of Idolatry and rebellion [*si* p. 35 par. 35]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Once a year, on the (~~Festival of Booths~~; Day of Atonement; Passover), the whole nation of Israel, including alien residents who worshiped Jehovah, had to (cease from all work; pay tithes; present first-~~fruit offerings~~) and fast. (Lev. 16:29-31) [~~Weekly Bible~~ reading; see *w*96 7/1 p. 10 par. 12.]

27. One of the goals of the New World Bible Translation Committee was to produce a translation that was (as literal as possible; a paraphrase of the original languages; in harmony with a particular doctrinal understanding) in order to give the reader closer access to the flavor of the original languages and associated thought processes. [*w*97 10/15 p. 11 par. 5]

28. According to Hebrews 13:19, persistent prayers of fellow believers can make a difference as to (what God permits; when God acts; how God will maneuver things). [*w*97 4/15 p. 6 par. 1]

29. The "blue string above the fringed edge of the skirt" of the Israelites was required as a (sacred decoration; sign of modesty; visual reminder to be separate from the world as Jehovah's people). (Num. 15:38, 39) [~~Weekly Bible reading~~; see *w*83 10/15 p. 20 par. 16.]

30. The time period covered by the book of Deuteronomy is (two months; one year; two years), and its writing was completed early in (1513; 1473; 1467) B.C.E. [*si* p. 36 par. 6]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Num. 16:41, 49; Matt. 19:9; Luke 2:36-38; Col. 2:8; 3:14

31. Asceticism does not lead to special holiness or real enlightenment. [*g*97 10/8 p. 21 par. 3] Col 2:8

32. Fornication is the only Scriptural ground for divorce with the possibility of remarriage. [*fy* pp. 158-9 par. 15] Mt 19:9

33. Being very active in theocratic activities, even in later years, can help one cope with the loss of a marriage partner. [*fy* pp. 170-1 par. 21] Lu 2

34. Finding fault with Jehovah's way of administering justice through his appointed servants can have disastrous consequences. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*96 6/15 p. 21 par. 13.] Num 16:41, 49

35. Unselfish love binds a married couple together and makes them want to do what is best for each other and for their children. [*fy* p. 187 par. 11] ~~Col 2:8~~ Col 3:14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation*. **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies.

- Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2000, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time. No congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup that day.

- Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1999 with their December literature request. The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

- The Memorial for the year 2001 will be on Sunday, April 8, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. The elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner. Because of the importance of the occasion, in assigning a Memorial speaker, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. An exception will be made if there is a capable elder of the anointed who can give the talk.

- New Publications Available:

Does God Really Care About Us? —Tigrinya
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Gujarati, Nepali
New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures —Shona
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Persian
Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Yoruba
The Guidance of God—Our Way to Paradise —Arabic
What Does God Require of Us? —Sorani Kurdish

- New Audiocassettes Available:

What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —Quechua
When Someone You Love Dies (single cassette) —English

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**144**	**119.2**	**100.6**	**52.7**	**4.4**
Pios.	**90,955**	**67.7**	**49.4**	**21.1**	**1.6**
Aux. Pios.	**29,012**	**50.8**	**38.6**	**13.2**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**810,133**	**9.2**	**8.0**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**930,244**				Baptized: **1,791**

The August *Our Kingdom Ministry* set a goal of 90,000 regular pioneers to be enrolled by September 1. We are happy to report a new peak of 90,955 regular pioneers for the month of September. This is an increase of 11,679, or nearly 15 percent, over the previous peak of August 1999. We look forward to future service reports.

The Theocratic Ministry School for 2000

[1] The Theocratic Ministry School has proved to be a rich blessing to Jehovah's people. Over the past 50 years, it has helped millions to develop their abilities as public speakers and teachers of Bible truths. (Ps. 145:10-12; Matt. 28:19, 20) Can you see how the school has helped you? It can continue to do so during 2000 if you share in it fully and apply the counsel that is given.

[2] Instructions about assignments and the publications that will be used are listed on the first page of the school schedule for 2000. The time allotted for each part, the source material, how the material is to be presented, and other details are considered. Please take the time to read the instructions carefully and apply them.

[3] **Weekly Bible Reading:** There are two separate programs for weekly Bible reading listed on the school schedule. One is the standard reading program that covers about five pages of the Bible. Bible highlights are based on this reading. The other reading program is supplemental and covers twice as much material. By following this program, you will be able to read the entire Bible in three years. It is understood that some may want to read more than is scheduled in the supplemental program, and others may not be able to keep up with it. Rather than comparing yourself with others, rejoice in what you can accomplish. (Gal. 6:4) The vital thing is to read God's Word daily.—Ps. 1:1-3.

[4] To enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School, you should speak with the school overseer. Please take your assignments seriously, and do not cancel unnecessarily. Appreciate the school as a provision from Jehovah. Prepare well, become thoroughly familiar with the assigned material, and express yourself from the heart, thus benefiting to the full from this unique school.

What Will You Say to an Atheist?

[1] "I am an atheist," a professor from Poland told a missionary in Africa. However, the sister was able to have a discussion with the woman and gave her the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* When the missionary returned the next week, the professor told her: "I'm no longer an atheist!" She had read the entire *Creation* book and now asked for a Bible study. What can you do to succeed in giving a witness to those who say that they do not believe in God? First, consider the various reasons why people make this claim.

[2] **Factors That Contribute to Disbelief:** Not all atheists were raised as such. Many were exposed to a form of religion and at one time believed in God. However, serious health or family problems or certain injustices they experienced weakened their faith. For others, courses taught in schools of higher learning have had a negative impact on their concept of God. Note the following examples of atheists who eventually developed a strong belief in Jehovah God and became his Witnesses.

[3] A woman in Paris had been born with a debilitating bone disease. Although baptized as a Catholic, she proclaimed herself an atheist. When she asked the nuns why God had allowed her to be born with such a disability, their answer was: "Because he loves you." She refused to accept that absurd idea. Also, consider a young person in Finland who was diagnosed as having an incurable muscle disease and was confined to a wheelchair. His mother took him to a Pentecostal who claimed to cure sick people. But there was no miraculous healing. As a result, the young man lost interest in God and became an atheist.

[4] A man in Honduras was raised a Catholic but studied Socialist philosophy and atheism. Convinced by university teaching that mankind is the product of evolution, he ceased to believe in God. Similarly, a woman in the United States was raised a Methodist. In college, she took psychology classes. How was her belief affected? She said: "In one summer they destroyed every bit of faith I had in religion."

[5] **Reaching the Hearts of Sincere Ones:** Many individuals who say that they do not believe in God would appreciate knowing if there is a solution to the problems of poor health, family discord, injustice, and so forth. They are sincerely interested in finding answers to such questions as: 'Why does evil exist?' 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' and 'What is the meaning of life?'

[6] A husband and wife living in Switzerland had both been raised as atheists. When they were first contacted with the truth, their response was negative. But they had serious family problems and were considering divorce. When the Witness visited again, she showed the couple from the Bible how to overcome their problems. The couple were astonished at the practical counsel contained in the Scriptures, and they agreed to a Bible study. Their marriage was strengthened, they progressed spiritually, and they got baptized.

[7] **What You Can Say to an Atheist:** When someone tells you he is an atheist, endeavor to find out the reason why he says that. Is it because of the education he has received, the problems he has experienced, or religious hypocrisy and false teachings he has seen? You might ask him: "Have you always felt this way?" or "What is the reason for your conclusion?" His answer will help you determine what to say. Where powerful arguments are required, the book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* may be just what is needed.

[8] ***You might pursue a conversation with an atheist by asking:***

- "Have you ever wondered: 'If there is a God, why is there so much suffering and injustice in the world?' [Allow for response.] May I show you the Bible's view on this subject?" Read Jeremiah 10:23. After reading it, ask his opinion of the text. Then show him pages 16 and 17 in the brochure *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* Or, instead, you may use chapter 10 of the *Creator* book. Invite him to accept the publication and read the material.—For further suggestions, see the *Reasoning* book, pages 150-1.

[9] Admittedly, not all atheists will accept the truth. But there are many who are willing to consider another viewpoint. Use logic, persuasion and, above all, the power of God's Word to help them see the truth.—Acts 28:23, 24; Heb. 4:12.